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THE
ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BOMBAY
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TRAVELS
IN
SWITZERLAND,
AND IN THE
COUNTRY OF THE GRISONS:
IN A
SERIES OF LETTERS
TO
WILLIAM MELMOTH, Esq.
FROM
WILLIAM COXE, M.A. F.R.S. F.A.S.
Rector of Bemerton; Member of the Imperial Oeconomical
Society at St. Petersburgh, of the Royal Academy of
Sciences at Copenhagen, and Chaplain to His
Grace the Duke of Marlborough.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

THE SECOND EDITION.

VOL. I.

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W.e.20a

Bombay Branch Royal Asiatic Society

LONDON:
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1791.

Là habite un Peuple ſimple, bienfaiſant, brave, ennemi du faſte, ami du travail, ne cherchant point d'eſclaves, et ne voulant point de maitres.

DE MEHEGAN,
Tableau de l'Hiſtoire Moderne.

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TO THE

COUNTESS

OF

PEMBROKE AND MONTGOMERY, BARONESS HERBERT, &c. &c.

MADAM,

THE following letters relating to Switzerland naturally claim your Ladyſhip's protection; for they were originally written while I had the honour of accompanying Lord Herbert upon his travels. I feel myſelf highly flattered, therefore, in having the permiſſion of inſcribing them to your Ladyſhip, and of thus publicly acknowledging that I am, with great reſpect, and gratitude for obligations received from the Earl of Pembroke and your Ladyſhip,

MADAM,

Your Ladyſhip's

moſt obedient and

obliged humble ſervant,

W^M. COXE.

PREFACE.

TEN years have elapſed ſince I gave to the public a volume of Letters, under the title of, "*Sketches on the Natural, Civil, and "Political State of Switzerland.*" The favourable reception of that work induced me, in 1779, to make a journey through the country of the Griſons, a part of Switzerland hitherto little known. Having, in 1785 and 1787, opportunities of reviſiting the ſame ſpots which I had before deſcribed, I was anxious to reviſe and augment my former publication. With this view I compared my deſcriptions at the very places, which I attempted to delineate; attentively peruſed the criticiſms of ſucceeding travellers; and in many of the principal towns, I entreated ſeveral perſons, of political or literary eminence, to correct any errors, or to ſuggeſt any improvement, with reſpect to thoſe particular parts, with which, from ſituation, they were moſt converſant.

The materials collected from theſe and other ſources, increaſed by my own obſervations and reſearches, encourage me to hope, that the preſent improved account of ſo intereſting a country as Switzerland, will not be unacceptable to the public, and will be conſidered as a new work.

It may be proper to appriſe the purchaſers of the former editions, that it was my intention to have ſeparately printed the corrections and additions, for their convenience; but it is preſumed, that a compariſon of the preſent publication with the former editions, will ſufficiently prove, that the deſign was impracticable.

Bemerton, Feb. 20, 1789.

ADVERTISEMENT.

IN regard to the former publication on Switzerland, the Author acknowledges his obligations to Colonel Floyd, for the uſe of the accurate journal which he kept during their joint tour, and to the judicious animadverſions of the elegant writer to whom theſe Letters are addreſſed. For this improved work he holds himſelf no leſs indebted for various communications from Thomas Pennant, Eſq. and David Pennant, Eſq.; and to the kind aſſiſtance of Dr. Pulteney, the Rev. Thomas Martyn, Profeſſor of Botany in the Univerſity of Cambridge, and the Rev. Richard Relhan.

As it was inconſiſtent with the nature of letters, to interrupt the reader by perpetual references to authorities, I have ſubjoined, in an appendix to the ſecond volume, a catalogue of the principal works which I have occaſionally conſulted in the courſe of this publication.

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LETTERS, &c.

LETTER I.

Route through the Black Foreſt—Source of the Danube.

Doneſchingen, July 21, 1776.

DEAR SIR,

I AM now at Doneſchingen, in my way towards Switzerland; a country long celebrated for the peculiarities of its different governments, and for the ſingular beauties conferred upon it by nature. If it will not be treſpaſſing upon your patience, I propoſe to trouble you with ſome account of my tour. For I am perſuaded, that I ſhall travel with much greater profit to myſelf; as the reflection that my obſervations are to be communicated to you, will render me more attentive and accurate in forming them.

We quitted Straſburgh yeſterday, and croſſed the Rhine to Kehl, formerly an important fortreſs belonging to Straſburgh when an imperial city. It was alſo ſtrongly fortified by the French, who took poſſeſſion of it in 1648: being ceded to the Empire at the peace of Ryſwic, the Emperor conſigned it to the houſe of Baden, reſerving, however, to himſelf the right of a garriſon. Since that period, it has been twice attacked by the French: and as during the laſt ſiege, in 1733, the works were conſiderably damaged, the imperial garriſon has been withdrawn. At preſent, there are only the ruins of the ancient fortifications; and by way of garriſon, a few invalids belonging to the Margrave of Baden. From thence we proceeded to Offenburgh, a ſmall imperial town; and ſoon after, entered the beautiful valley of Kinſing: we paſſed through Gengenbach, another ſmall imperial town, finely ſituated; and continued our journey by the ſide of the ſmall river Kinſing; riſing gradually for ſeveral leagues together, until we found ourſelves in the midſt of the Black Foreſt. As we aſcended, the country became more wild and romantic, and the river more rapid; on each hand mountains, whoſe acclivities were finely cultivated, and whoſe tops were richly covered with a continual foreſt. Several ſmall ſtreams of the cleareſt water rolled down the ſides of the mountains, in numberleſs caſcades; and uniting, fell into the Kinſing. The views were ſo exceedingly diverſified; the villages ſo delightfully ſituated; and the cottages ſo extremely picturesque, that we almoſt ſeemed to have anticipated the romantic beauties of Switzerland.

Doneſchingen is the principal reſidence of the prince of Furſtenberg: in the court-yard of his palace, the Danube takes its riſe. I am this moment returned from viſiting the ſpot; the deſcription of which may be compriſed in a few words. Some ſmall ſprings bubbling from the ground, form a baſon of clear water, of about thirty foot ſquare: from this baſon iſſues the Danube, which is here only a little brook. And though the two ſmall rivers of Bribach and Brege, uniting below the town, are far more conſiderable than this ſtream, which flows into them ſoon after their junction; yet the latter alone has the honour of being called the ſource of the Danube. After we had gone through the ceremony of ſtriding acroſs the ſtream, in order to ſay, that we had *ſtepped* over the Danube, we ſoon ſatisfied our curioſity; the object itſelf being in no reſpect extraordinary, but deriving its principal conſideration from being the ſource of ſo noble a river. Indeed, it was this circumſtance alone that induced us to enter Switzerland by the way of Suabia.

I am, dear Sir,

very affectionately yours,

WILLIAM COXE.

LETTER 2.

Arrival in Switzerland—Schaffhauſen—Fall of the Rhine.

Schaffhauſen, July 22.

I FEEL great delight in breathing the air of liberty: every perſon here has apparently the mien of content and ſatisfaction. The cleanlineſs of the houſes, and of the people, is peculiarly ſtriking; and I can trace in all their manners, behaviour, and dreſs, ſome ſtrong outlines, which diſtinguiſh this happy people from the neighbouring nations. Perhaps it may be prejudice and unreaſonable partiality; but I am the more pleaſed, becauſe their firſt appearance reminds me of my own countrymen, and I could almoſt think, for a moment, that I am in England *.

Schaffhauſen, a tolerably well-built town, ſituated upon the northern ſhore of the Rhine, is the capital of the canton, and owes its origin to the interruption of the navigation of that river by the cataract at Lauffen: huts being at firſt conſtructed for the convenience of unloading the merchandize from the boats, by degrees increaſed to a large town. Schaffhauſen was formerly an imperial city, and governed by an ariſtocracy: it was mortgaged in 1330, by the Emperor Louis of Bavaria, to the Dukes of Auſtria, and was releaſed from its dependency by the Emperor Sigiſmond, when Frederic Duke of Auſtria was put under the ban of the empire. In 1501, it was admitted a member of the Helvetic confederacy; and is the twelfth canton in rank. Of all the cantons, it is the leaſt in ſize, being only five leagues in length and three in breadth: its population is ſuppoſed to amount to thirty thouſand ſouls; of which, the capital contains about ſix thouſand.

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* On again entering Schaffhauſen, the 18th of July, 1786, I was not ſo much ſtruck with its neatneſs as in 1776. The reaſon is obvious. In my former expedition I emerged from the wilds of Suabia, on the latter occaſion I had juſt quitted the cultivated parts of Bavaria.

The

The whole number of citizens or burgeſſes (in whom the ſupreme power ultimately reſides) is about ſixteen hundred. They are divided into twelve tribes: and from theſe are elected eighty-five members, who form the great and little council. To theſe two councils combined, the adminiſtration of affairs is committed: the ſenate, or little council of twenty-five, being entruſted with the executive power; and the great council, compriſing the ſenate, finally deciding all appeals, and regulating the more important concerns of government.

The revenues of the ſtate are not very conſiderable, as will appear from the ſalary of the burgomaſter, or chief of the republic; which barely amounts to £. 150 *per ann.* The reformation was introduced in 1529: the clergy are paid by the ſtate, but their income is ſcarcely ſufficient for their maintenance; the beſt living being only about £. 100, and the worſt £. 40 *per ann.* The profeſſors of literature alſo, who are taken from the clergy, are paid by government; and a ſchool is ſupported at the public expence. Sumptuary laws are in force here, as well as in moſt parts of Switzerland; and no dancing is allowed, except upon particular occaſions. The principal article of exportation is wine; of which a large quantity is made, the country abounding in vineyards: and as the canton furniſhes but little corn, it is procured from Suabia in exchange for wine. In the town there are a few manufactures of linen, cotton, and ſilk.

It will perhaps give you ſome idea of the ſecurity of the Swiſs republics, when I inform you, that Schaffhauſen, although a frontier town, has no garriſon; and that the fortifications are but weak. The citizens mount guard by turns; and the people of the canton being divided into regular companies of militia, which are exerciſed yearly, are always prepared to act in defence of their country. This canton has ſome troops in France, Sardinia, and Holland; the only foreign ſervices into which the ſubjects of the Proteſtant cantons enliſt.

Before I take leave of this town, I muſt not omit mentioning the bridge over the Rhine; juſtly admired for the ſingularity of its architecture. The river is extremely rapid, and had already deſtroyed ſeveral ſtone bridges of the ſtrongeſt conſtruction; when a carpenter of Appenzel offered to throw a wooden bridge, of a ſingle arch, acroſs the river, which is near four hundred feet wide. The magiſtrates, however, required that it ſhould conſiſt of two arches, and that he ſhould for that purpoſe employ the middle pier of the old bridge. Accordingly, the architect was obliged to obey; but he has contrived to leave it a matter of doubt, whether the bridge is ſupported by the middle pier; and whether it would not have been equally as ſafe if formed ſolely of one arch.

It is a wooden bridge, of which the ſides and top are covered, and is what the Germans call a *hængewerk*, or hanging bridge; the road, which is almoſt level, is not carried, as uſual, over the top of the arch; but, if I may uſe the expreſſion, is let into the middle of it, and there ſuſpended. The pier is not in a right line with the buttreſſes; as it forms with them a very obtuſe angle pointing down the ſtream, being eight feet out of the rectilinear direction. The diſtance of this middle pier from the ſhore that lies towards the town, is a hundred and ſeventy-two feet, and from the other ſide, a hundred and ninety-three; in all, three hundred and ſixty-four feet; making in appearance two arches of a ſurpriſing width, and forming a beautiful perſpective when viewed at ſome diſtance. A man of the ſlighteſt weight feels it almoſt tremble under him; yet waggons heavily laden paſs over without danger. It has been compared to a tight rope, which trembles when ſtruck, but ſtill preſerves its firm and equal tenſion. I went under this bridge, in order to examine its mechaniſm; and could not avoid being highly pleaſed with the ſimplicity of the architecture: I was not capable of determining whether it reſts upon the middle pier, but many judges agree that it does not.

On conſidering the greatneſs of the plan, and the boldneſs of the conſtruction, it is matter of aſtoniſhment that the architect was originally a carpenter, without the leaſt tincture of literature, totally ignorant of mathematics, and not verſed in the theory of mechanics. The name of this extraordinary man was Ulric Grubenman, a native of Tuffen, a ſmall village in the canton of Appenzel. Poſſeſſed of uncommon natural abilities, and a ſurpriſing turn for the practical part of mechanics, he raiſed himſelf to great eminence in his profeſſion; and may juſtly be conſidered as one of the moſt ingenious architects of the preſent century. This bridge was finiſhed in leſs than three years, and coſt ninety thouſand florins *.

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* About £. 8000 ſterling.—Mr. Andreæ, in his Letters upon Switzerland, has given two engravings of this bridge, to which he has added a very accurate deſcription of its mechanical conſtruction, communicated by Mr. Jetzler of Schaffhauſen.

This morning we rode about a league, to the Fall of the Rhine at Lauffen. Our route lay over the hills which form the banks of the river: the environs are pictureſque and agreeable; the river

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Schaffhauſen. In this deſcription he repreſents it as conſiſting of two arches, and reſting upon the middle pier. Several perſons well ſkilled in architecture, maintained a contrary opinion; and in the former editions I was induced to adopt it, from the following reaſons. The architect himſelf conſtantly maintained, that the bridge was not ſupported by the pier; his nephew, who was employed in its conſtruction, confirmed the ſame aſſertion; and as, at firſt, it did not even touch the pier, it muſt therefore, at that time, have been conſidered as forming but one arch. I muſt, however, candidly own, that in my ſubſequent viſits to Schaffhauſen in 1785 and 1786, I had reaſon to change my opinion. At thoſe periods the bridge was ſupported on piles, in order to undergo a thorough repair. Mr. Spengler, a native of the town, and lately returned from Ruſſia, where he had paſſed many years in the capacity of an architect, fortunately diſcovered, that much ill-ſeaſoned wood having been employed in its conſtruction, many of the timbers were abſolutely decayed; and that one ſide had greatly ſwerved from its original direction. This ingenious artiſt, after having expatiated on the ſimplicity and boldneſs of the deſign, informed me, that the bridge undoubtedly conſiſts of two arches; and that although Grubenman, of whoſe abilities he ſpoke with deſerved encomium, affected to place the timbers in ſuch a manner as to reſemble but one arch, and always aſſerted that it was not ſupported by the pier; yet that the whole fabric would undoubtedly have fallen, if that pier had been taken away.

river beautifully winding through the vale. Upon our arrival at Lauffen, a ſmall village in the canton of Zuric, we diſmounted; and advancing to the edge of the precipice which overhangs the Rhine, we looked down perpendicularly upon the cataract, and ſaw the river tumbling over the ſides of the rock with amazing violence and precipitation. From hence we deſcended till we were ſomewhat below the upper bed of the river, and ſtood cloſe to the fall; ſo that I could almoſt have touched it with my hand. A ſcaffolding is erected in the very ſpray of this tremendous cataract, and upon the moſt ſublime point of view:—the ſea of foam ruſhing down—the continual cloud of ſpray ſcattered to a great diſtance, and to a conſiderable height—in ſhort, the magnificence of the whole ſcenery far ſurpaſſed my moſt ſanguine expectations, and exceeds all deſcription. Within about an hundred feet of the ſcaffolding, two crags riſe in the middle of the fall: the neareſt is perforated by the continual action of the river; and the water

away. He obligingly ſhewed me his plan for repairing the bridge, and for ſtrengthening it by means of additional timbers, in order to render it able to ſupport its own weight, when the piles ſhould be removed.

Vid. *Briefe aus der Schweiz nach Hannover geſchrieben.* Zuric, 1776.

forces itſelf through in an oblique direction, with inexpreſſible fury, and an hollow ſound. After having contemplated the awful ſublimity of this wonderful landſcape, we deſcended; and croſſed the river, which was extremely agitated.

Hitherto I had only viewed the cataract obliquely; but here it opened by degrees, and diſplayed another picture, which I enjoyed at my leiſure, as I ſat down upon the oppoſite bank. The moſt ſtriking objects were, the caſtle of Lauffen, erected upon the very edge of the precipice, and projecting over the river; near it, a church and ſome cottages; a clump of cottages cloſe to the Fall; in the back ground, rocks, planted with vines, or tufted with hanging woods; a beautiful little hamlet upon the ſummit, ſkirted with trees; the great body of water, that ſeemed to ruſh out from the bottom of the rocks; the two crags abovementioned boldly advancing their heads in the midſt of the fall, and in the very point of its ſteepeſt deſcent, their tops ſprinkled with ſhrubs, and dividing the cataract into three principal branches. The colour of the Rhine is extremely beautiful, being of a clear ſea-green; and I could not but remark the fine effect of the tints, when blended with the white foam in its deſcent. There is a pleaſing view from an iron foundery cloſe to the river, which is dammed up, in order to prevent its carrying away the works and neighbouring cottages: by means of this dam a ſmall portion of the river is diverted, turns a mill, and forms a little ſilver current, gliding down the bare rock, and detached from the main cataract. Below the fall the river widens conſiderably into a more ample baſon; at the fall, the breadth ſeemed to be about three hundred feet. As to its perpendicular height, travellers differ: thoſe who are given to exaggeration reckon it a hundred feet; but I ſhould imagine about fifty or ſixty feet will be nearer the truth. I ſtood for ſome time upon the brink of the cataract; beheld with admiration; and liſtened in ſilence; then croſſed the river; remounted my horſe; and returned to Schaffhauſen.

Some writers have aſſerted that the Rhine precipitates itſelf in one ſheet of water; and, as I before obſerved, from a perpendicular height of a hundred feet. In former ages this account might be agreeable to fact; as it is probable that the ſpace between the two banks was once a level rock, and conſiderably higher; that the river has inſenſibly undermined thoſe parts, on which it broke with the utmoſt violence: for, within the memory of ſeveral inhabitants of this town, a large rock has given way, that has greatly altered the view. Indeed I am convinced that the perpendicular height of the fall is diminiſhed every year, by the continual friction of ſo large and rapid a body of water; and have no doubt but that the two crags, which now riſe in the midſt of the river, will in time be undermined and carried away. The Rhine, for ſome way before the fall, even near the bridge, daſhes upon a rocky bottom, and renders the navigation impoſſible for any kind of veſſel.

I am, &c.

LETTER 3.

Iſle of Reichenau—Conſtance—Genevan Eſtabliſhment—Iſle of Meinau—Lake of Conſtance.

Conſtance, July 24.

YESTERDAY morning we quitted Schaffhauſen, and croſſed the Rhine at Dieſſenhoffen, a ſmall town in Thurgau; a country dependent upon the eight antient cantons: from thence to Stein the road lay by the ſide of that river. Stein is an independent town under the protection of Zuric, but governed by its own laws and magiſtrates. At this place we took a boat to carry us to Conſtance. A little above the town of Stein the river widens conſiderably, and forms the inferior lake of Conſtance, or the *Zeller See*; which is divided into two branches: from Stein to Conſtance is about ſixteen miles, and from the latter to Zell, its greateſt breadth, about ten.

A fine breeze ſoon carried us to the iſland of Reichenau, which belongs to the Biſhop of Conſtance: it is about three miles long, and one broad; contains about ſixteen hundred inhabitants, all Catholics; three pariſhes; one village; and a rich abbey of Benedictines, of which the biſhop of Conſtance is abbot. The ſuperior was exceedingly civil, and ſhewed us all the relics and curioſities of the convent: among the latter was a carious tooth of Charles Le Gros. That monarch, who was emperor and king of France, and who poſſeſſed dominions as extenſive as thoſe of Charlemagne, lived to want the common neceſſaries of life, and to depend for his ſubſiſtence upon the charity of an archbiſhop of Mentz. He was publicly depoſed in 887, at a meeting of the principal French, German, and Italian barons, whom he himſelf had ſummoned: after having languiſhed a year, in extreme want and miſery; he died at a ſmall village near Mentz, in Germany, and his remains were conveyed to this convent. The next remarkable curioſity, was an emerald, as it is called, of an extraordinary ſize, which, according to the annals of the convent, was a preſent from Charlemagne. Take its dimenſions, and then judge whether it can be an emerald: it has four unequal ſides; the longeſt of which is near two feet, and the broadeſt about nine inches; it is one inch thick, and weighs about twenty-nine pounds. The ſuperior valued it at £. 4500; but if it is, as I conjecture, nothing more than a tranſparent green *ſpath-fluor*, its value will be reduced to a few ſhillings. Upon our return to the inn, where we dined, we found a preſent from the ſuperior, more valuable than all the relics and curioſities of his convent; two bottles of excellent wine, the growth of the iſland, which is almoſt a continued vineyard.

In the evening we arrived at Conſtance; the ſituation of which upon the Rhine, between the two lakes, is moſt delightful. I was much affected with the ſolitary appearance of a town once ſo flouriſhing in commerce, and ſo celebrated in the annals of hiſtory. A dead ſtillneſs reigns throughout; graſs grows in the principal ſtreets; in a word, it wears the melancholy aſpect of being almoſt totally deſerted; and ſcarcely contains three thouſand inhabitants. This city has endured a ſad reverſe of fortune: it was formerly in alliance with Zuric and Baſle; and, ſupported by their aſſiſtance, had expelled the biſhop, and embraced the reformation. But the Proteſtant cantons being worſted in 1351; and the league of Smalcade, of which Conſtance was a member, being defeated by Charles V. the town was obliged to ſubmit to the emperor, and to re-admit the Catholic religion. From this period it loſt its independence; and being neglected by the houſe of Auſtria, fell by degrees into its preſent almoſt annihilated ſtate; exhibiting to ſome of the neighbouring Swiſs cantons, an inſtructive contraſt, which muſt ſenſibly endear to them their own invaluable happineſs, in the commerce and liberties which they enjoy.

We paid a viſit to the chamber where the council of Conſtance was held in 1415, and had the honour of ſitting in the two chairs, in which ſat pope John XXIII *. and the emperor Sigiſmond; if any honour can be derived from a tur-

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* He was depoſed in this council.

bulent eccleſiaſtic, and a perjured ſovereign. It was by a ſentence of this council, that the celebrated reformer John Huſs (having embraced the doctrines of our Wickliffe, and truſting to the protection of the emperor, who violated his word) was burnt as an heretic. The houſe is ſtill ſhewn where he was ſeized, and upon which is fixed his head, carved in ſtone, but now almoſt defaced; with an inſcription under it in German. Jerome of Prague, his diſciple, had the weakneſs to recant before the ſame council; but this weakneſs was amply compenſated by the greatneſs of ſoul with which he again retracted this recantation, and by the calm and intrepid magnanimity which he diſplayed in his laſt moments at the ſtake. From the top of the cathedral we had a ſuperb view of the town, and of the two lakes; with the rugged Alps of Tyrol and Appenzel, their tops covered with perpetual ſnow.

Conſtance may again become a commercial town, through the permiſſion granted by the emperor, to the emigrants from Geneva, of ſettling and carrying on their trade and manufactures, with very conſiderable privileges. Meſſrs. Roman and Meilly, watchmakers of Geneva, were the firſt perſons, whom the troubles of their native republic drove to Conſtance. They received from the emperor the following immunities for themſelves and countrymen.

The right of purchaſing or building houſes; free exerciſe of religion, entirely independent of the Catholic clergy; the power of erecting a tribunal for the purpoſe of deciding all affairs relative to their manufactures and commerce; exemption from ſerving in the militia and quartering ſoldiers; from all contributions during the ſpace of twenty years; from duties on their tools and utenſils; and the ſtandard of the gold and ſilver employed in their manufactures to be invariably fixed. Theſe favourable terms, ſigned on the 30th of June, 1785, attracted many ſettlers to Conſtance; and in my ſecond viſit to this place, on the 25th of October, 1787, the new colony of Genevans conſiſted of ſeventy families, compriſing three hundred and fifty perſons; among theſe were fifty-four watchmakers, who had introduced the different branches of manufacture which belong to their trade. Four hundred watches were already finiſhed, and above fourteen hundred more were preparing.

The emperor has alſo granted to Mr. Macaire the convent of Dominicans lately ſecularized, towards eſtabliſhing a manufacture of printed linens and cottons. The refectory is appropriated for the chapel of the new colony.

I did not omit viſiting a ſmall dungeon, about eight feet long, ſix broad, and ſeven high; in which John Huſs was confined, and wherein I obſerved the very ſtone to which he had been chained. I entered it however with very different ſenſations from thoſe which I experienced in 1776, when this convent was the aſylum of monkiſh ſuperſtition. It is now the ſeat of trade and induſtry: and it muſt ſuggeſt a pleaſing reflection to a philoſophic mind, that a ſucceſſor of Sigiſmond, who violated his word, ſhould have conſigned to a reformed eſtabliſhment that very convent in which the Bohemian divine was impriſoned, and from which he was triumphantly led to the ſtake; and that the moſt enlarged principles of toleration ſhould be manifeſted in the ſame place, where perſecution was inculcated by precept and example. It is the triumph of reaſon and religion over bigotry and intolerance.

I am juſt returned from a pleaſant expedition to the ſmall iſland of Meinau, in a bay of the ſuperior lake: this iſland, about a mile in circumference, belongs to the knights of the Teutonic order. The bailif ſhewed us the houſe of the commander, which is prettily ſituated, and has a fine proſpect of the lake, but contains nothing remarkable but the cellars, which are well ſtocked with wine; an article from which the chief revenue of the commandery ariſes. Our good friend the bailif was very free in offering it; and we, not to appear inſenſible of his civility, were conſtrained to taſte ſeveral different ſorts, which he ſucceſſively preſented, always praiſing the laſt as the oldeſt and moſt exquiſite. The wine was indeed excellent, the glaſſes large, and a moſt formidable row of enormous caſks ſtill remained untaſted; ſo that, after having duly extolled ſeveral ſpecimens, we found it expedient to decline the farther ſolicitations of our generous hoſt: for, had we performed the whole ceremony, we muſt have taken up our abode in the caſtle for the night.

July 25.

We ſet ſail about two hours ago from Conſtance. This ſuperior lake, or, as it is ſometimes called, the *Boden See*, is about fifteen leagues in length and ſix in its greateſt breadth: it is one of the great boundaries that ſeparate Switzerland from Germany. The borders on each ſide conſiſt of gently riſing hills; on the left hand Suabia, and on the right Thurgau, with a variety of ſcattered towns, villages, and monaſteries: the form of the lake inclines to an oval, and the water is of a greeniſh hue. I am now writing aboard the veſſel; and have been for ſome time in vain attempting to diſtinguiſh (what ſome travellers have affirmed to be diſcernable) the waters of the Rhine from thoſe of the lake: though indeed I was before almoſt convinced of the impoſſibility. For the river in its courſe from the ſuperior lake, being exactly of the ſame beautiful greeniſh colour as the inferior lake into which it flows; it is evident that the one can never be diſtinguiſhed from the other. Probably, upon its firſt entrance into the ſuperior lake it is troubled, and conſequently, for ſome way, its current may eaſily be traced: but it purifies by degrees, and becomes an indiſtinct part of the great body of water.

This lake, like all the other lakes of Switzerland, is conſiderably deeper in ſummer than in winter; a circumſtance owing to the firſt melting of the ſnow from the neighbouring mountains: it abounds in fiſh of various ſorts. Yeſterday evening, in our expedition to Meinau, there was ſcarcely a breeze ſtirring, and the lake was as ſmooth as chryſtal: a briſk gale has now raiſed a fine curl upon the ſurface; and the ſurrounding landſcape forms an aſſemblage of the moſt beautiful objects. In ſhort, the ſeveral views which preſent themſelves are ſo truly enchanting, as to make me regret every moment that my eyes are called off from the delightful ſcenes. You will not wonder, therefore, if I am tempted to bid you adieu ſomewhat abruptly.

Yours, &c.

P. S: The following deſcription of the great trout, which frequents all the Swiſs lakes, but more particularly abounds in the lake of Conſtance, was communicated by Thomas Pennant, Eſq. This ſpecies of trout is called in this neighbourhood *Illankin*, and by Linnæus, *Salmo Lacuſtris*. The head is conical, and larger in proportion than that of a ſalmon. The dorſal fin has twelve rays; pectoral, fourteen; ventral and anal, twelve each. The under jaw, in full-grown fiſh, ends in a blunt hook. The colour, as low as the lateral line, of a deep blue, brightening as it approaches the line; beneath that, of a ſilvery white; all the upper part is ſpotted irregularly with black. This kind grows to the weight of forty or forty-five pounds.

Theſe fiſhes quit the deeps of the lake in April, and go up the Rhine to depoſit their ſpawn. The inhabitants of the ſhores form wears acroſs the river, in which they take them in their

paſſage.

paſſage. They are alſo caught in nets. The fiſhery laſts from May to September; the fiſhermen avoid taking any on the return, as they are then very lean and quite exhauſted. In ſpring and ſummer their fleſh is of a fine red, and very delicate; but after they have ſpawned, it turns white and becomes very indifferent. They feed on fiſh, worms, and inſects; and are particularly deſtructive to the graylings. Their great enemy is the Pike, which will attack an Illankin four times as large as itſelf. For a further account, the reader may conſult the elegant Icthyologie by Mr. Block, vol. iii. p. 155, who is the firſt naturaliſt that has given a ſatisfactory account of this gigantic ſpecies.

LETTER 4.

St. Gallen—Canton of Appenzel.

July 26.

I WRITE to you from the midſt of the Alps, under the ſhade of a grove of beeches, while a clear ſtream of water, flowing at my feet, forms a natural caſcade down the rock. I have juſt made a hearty meal upon ſome bread and cheeſe; which I found to be a moſt delicious repaſt,

paſt, after walking ſix miles over the mountains of Appenzel.

We this day quitted St. Gallen, and walked to Appenzel. The country is ſingularly wild and romantic; conſiſting of a continued ſeries of hills and dales, vallies and mountains, the tops of which are crowned with moſt luxuriant paſtures. I could not have conceived it poſſible, without having been an eye-witneſs, that any diſtrict within the ſame compaſs could have exhibited ſo numerous a population; the hills and vales being thickly ſtrewed with hamlets, ſcattered at a ſmall diſtance from each other; and exactly placed in the very ſpots which a man of taſte would have choſen, The pictureſque mountains, the foreſts, the currents which we croſſed, over bridges reſembling thoſe I have obſerved in ſome of the beſt landſcapes, added to the beauty of the ſcenes, and diverſified every ſtep with the moſt pleaſing objects. After having repoſed for a ſhort time in this delightful ſpot, I cannot employ myſelf more to my ſatiſfaction than by continuing my journal.

In my laſt letter I took my leave of you upon the lake of Conſtance: we landed at Roſhach, a ſmall burgh in the dominions of the abbot of St. Gallen, agreeably ſituated in the midſt of a bay at the edge of the lake, and at the bottom of a riſing hill, richly covered with wood and paſturages. From Roſhach we went to St. Gallen, the whole territory whereof does not exceed a mile and a half in circumference; and including the town contains near eight thouſand inhabitants. There every thing was alive; all perſons wore the appearance of induſtry and activity; exhibiting a ſtriking oppoſition to Conſtance, which we had juſt quitted.

The abbot and town of St. Gallen are both allies of the Swiſs cantons, and each enjoys the privilege of ſending deputies to the general diet. The abbot of St. Gallen is titular prince of the German empire, and is choſen by the ſeventy-two Benedictines, who compoſe this chapter. He formerly poſſeſſed the ſovereignty of the town; but the inhabitants ſhook off his authority, and became independent: and the various diſputes which, ſince that period, have ariſen between the two rival parties, have been compromiſed by the interpoſition of the Swiſs cantons. The town is entirely Proteſtant, and its government ariſto-democratical: the ſubjects of the abbot (whoſe territory is very extenſive) are moſtly Catholics. It is remarkable, that the abbey in which the prince reſides, is ſituated cloſe to the town, and in the midſt of its territory; as the latter is alſo entirely ſurrounded by the poſſeſſions of the prince.

The town owes its flouriſhing ſtate to the uncommon induſtry of the inhabitants, and to a very extenſive commerce, ariſing chiefly from its manufactures of linen, muſlin, and embroidery. In a place ſo entirely commercial, I was aſtoniſhed to find the arts and ſciences cultivated, and literature in the higheſt eſteem. In the library there are thirteen volumes in folio, containing manuſcript letters of the firſt German and Swiſs reformers. Luther ends a letter to Melancthon as follows:

Peſtis eram vivus, moriens ero mors tua, Papa.

Theſe letters would probably throw much light on the hiſtory of the reformation.

The library belonging to the abbey is very numerous and well arranged; and, among a number of monkiſh manuſcripts, contains ſeveral of the claſſic writers, which engaged my chief attention. To this library we owe Petronius Arbiter, Silius Italicus, Valerius Flaccus, and Quintilian, copies of which were found in 1413: it was formerly very rich in curious manuſcripts; but ſeveral being borrowed, during the council of Conſtance, by the cardinals and biſhops, were never returned.

The tranſition from the abbot of St. Gallen to the canton of Appenzel will not appear abrupt, as the latter once belonged to the former: the inhabitants, however, being loaded with exorbitant and oppreſſive taxes, revolted in 1400; and maintained their independence with the deſperate courage of a ſpirited people, who fight for their liberties. In 1452 they entered into a perpetual alliance with ſome of the neighbouring Swiſs republics; and in 1513 were admitted into the Helvetic confederacy: they hold the laſt rank among the thirteen cantons.

Before the reformation the whole canton was under one government; but ſince that period, part of the inhabitants having embraced the Proteſtant religion, and the other part continuing Catholics, violent diſputes were kindled between them; which, after much conteſt, were at length compromiſed. By an agreement in 1597, the canton was divided into two portions; *Rhodes Exterior*, and *Rhodes Interior*: it was ſtipulated, that the former ſhould be appropriated to the Proteſtants, and the latter to the Catholics. Accordingly the two parties finally ſeparated, and formed two republics; their government, police, and finances, being totally independent of each other. Each diſtrict ſends a deputy to the general diet: the whole canton, however, has but one vote, and loſes its ſuffrage if the two parties are not unanimous. In both diviſions the ſovereign power is veſted in the people at large; every male, who is paſt ſixteen, having a vote in their general aſſembly, held yearly for the creation of their magiſtrates and the purpoſes of legiſlation: and each voter is obliged to appear armed on that particular occaſion. The Landamman is the firſt magiſtrate: in each diſtrict there are two, who adminiſter the office alternately, and are confirmed yearly. They have each a council, which poſſeſſes juriſdiction in civil and criminal cauſes, has the care of the police, the management of the finances, and the general adminiſtration of affairs. The Landamman regent preſides; and the other, during the year in which he is out of office, is banneret or chief of the militia.

The *Rhodes Exterior* is much larger, and more peopled in proportion, than the *Interior*; and the Proteſtants are in general more commercial and induſtrious than the Catholics.—The former are ſuppoſed to amount to thirty-ſeven thouſand; the latter to twelve thouſand: an extraordinary number in ſo ſmall a canton, entirely mountainous, and of which a great part conſiſts of barren and inacceſſible rocks. But the induſtry of the inhabitants amply compenſates for any diſadvantages of ſoil: for, the people are frugal and laborious; their property is ſecured; and they are exempted from all burdenſome and arbitrary taxes. Theſe circumſtances, joined to the right of partaking of the legiſlation, and of electing their magiſtrates, inſpire them with ſuch animated ſentiments of their own importance and independence, as excite the moſt active and vigorous induſtry: and thoſe neceſſaries, to which this induſtry is not ſufficient, are abundantly ſupplied by their neighbours, in exchange for manufactures and other articles of domeſtic commerce. The chief part of the habitable country conſiſts of rich paſtures; and of courſe their principal exports are cattle and hides, together with cheeſe and butter. Their manufactures are coarſe callicots and muſlins in great quantities, which are entirely made in the houſes of the inhabitants. The cotton is ſpun with the common wheel. The web is bleached at home; and afterwards ſent to be printed in the neighbourhood of Neuchatel. The greateſt bleachery I ſaw in the Alps was near Appenzel, which extended over three or four acres of ground. Part of the river Sitler is diverted to turn the mill, which is of the ſimpleſt conſtruction. A large wheel on the outſide works a long cylinder within; on which are fixed a number of cogs to raiſe the hammers which beat the webs. In the ſame place are the boilers and other conveniences for the buſineſs.

The only mills for ſpinning the cottons by water, which I ſaw in Switzerland, were near Neuchatel and Geneva; but greatly inferior in ſize and ingenuity of machinery to thoſe of England.

The flouriſhing ſtate of the cotton manufactory has rendered many perſons in the Proteſtant diſtricts eaſy in their circumſtances, and even wealthy; if wealth is to be eſtimated from the general ſtate of the natives, and not from the comparative view of diſtant and greater opulence in large commercial cities. The villages of Trogen and Undevil announce, by their ſuperior neatneſs, the well-being of their inhabitants.

This canton contains no encloſed towns, but only two or three open burghs, of which Appenzel is the largeſt in the Catholic, Trogen, Undevil, and Heriſau, in the Proteſtant diſtrict, and a few villages: indeed the whole country, except amongſt the barren rocks, is almoſt a continued village, being thickly covered with excellent cottages. Each cottage has its little territory, or a field or two of fine paſture ground, which are frequently ſkirted with trees. The mountains are for the moſt part beautifully wooded; and the canton is ſupplied with water in ſuch exuberance, that we could hardly walk two hundred paces without ſeeing a ſpring bubble from the ground, or a torrent ruſh down the ſides of a rock.

In our way to Appenzel, we entered ſeveral houſes, which are all built of wood; neatneſs and convenience being the principal object of the owners: ſuch a remarkable cleanlineſs prevailed throughout, as afforded a moſt ſtriking proof of the general attention which the people pay to that eſſential article. A continued chain of theſe cultivated mountains, richly clothed with wood, and thickly ſtudded with hamlets, which appear to have been placed by the genius of taſte in the very ſpots where they would form the moſt ſtriking effect, exhibit a ſeries of landſcapes inexpreſſibly pleaſing: it ſeemed as if they belonged to independent clans; independent but ſocial, uniting for the great purpoſes of legiſlation, and for the general preſervation of their liberties.

Among the chief part of the inhabitants, the original ſimplicity of the paſtoral life is ſtill preſerved; and I ſaw ſeveral venerable figures with long beards, that reſembled the pictures of the antient patriarchs. The natives of this canton, in common with the inhabitants of democracies, poſſeſs a natural frankneſs, and peculiar tone of equality, which ariſe from a conſciouſneſs of their own independence. They alſo diſplay a fund of original humour, and are remarkable for great quickneſs of repartee, and rude ſallies of wit, which render their converſation extremely agreeable and intereſting.

In our way to Appenzel we paſſed through Tuffen, the birth-place of Ulric Grubenman, whom I mentioned in a former letter *: he has been dead ſome years: but his abilities and his ſkill in practical architecture are, if I may uſe the expreſſion, hereditary in his family. We inquired for one of the ſame name, who was either his brother or his nephew, whom we found at the alehouſe; his uſual place of reſort when he has no particular employment. He is a heavy, coarſe-looking man, dreſſed like a common peaſant; has a quick and penetrating eye, and a ſurpriſing readineſs of converſation. We told him that we were Engliſhmen, who were

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* See p. 9.

making the tour of Switzerland; and that we could not paſs through Tuffen without deſiring to ſee a man who was ſo much celebrated for his ſkill in architecture. He ſtruck his breaſt, and replied in German, "Here you ſee but a boor." Upon our talking with him about the bridge of Schaffhauſen, in the building of which he was employed, he aſſured us, that it does not reſt upon the middle pier, but is in reality a ſingle arch. Near Appenzel we obſerved an old man with venerable white hair hanging over his ſhoulders, who looked like a ſubſtantial farmer: he inquired with a tone of authority, but with perfect civility, who we were; and upon our aſking the ſame queſtion reſpecting himſelf, of our guide, we were informed, that he was the *Landamman*, or chief of the republic. Happy people, the nature of whoſe country, and the conſtitution of whoſe government both equally oppoſe the ſtrongeſt barriers againſt the introduction of luxury!

Doctor Girtanner, of St. Gallen, found in great abundance, on the top of the Appenzel mountains, the *Draba Pyrenaica* of Linnæus, not mentioned by Haller in his catalogue of the Swiſs plants.

Yours, &c.

Appenzel, July 27.

LETTER 5.

Valley of the Rhine—The Lake and Town of Wallenſtadt.

Salets, July 27.

WE are this moment arrived at the village of Salets; where we propoſe paſſing the night: while ſupper is preparing, I will continue my journal. We could procure but three horſes at Appenzel, and as one of them was appropriated to the baggage, I preferred walking. After having traverſed a league in the canton, over a continued range of mountains, enriched with beautiful meadows, and dotted with cottages, I arrived at its boundary; here the ſcene ſuddenly changed into a wild foreſt of pines, without the leaſt appearance of any habitation. The road is ſcarcely more than three feet broad; and is either paved with large uneven pieces of rock, or formed of thick ſtakes laid cloſely together: but as the ground is in many parts ſofter than in others, theſe ſtakes in ſome places ſink deeper, and form a ſucceſſion of uneven ſteps. The mountain by which we deſcended into the plain, is very ſteep; which circumſtance, added to the unevenneſs of the ſtakes, makes the aſcent and deſcent exceedingly difficult for horſes. Thoſe who are pleaſed with an uniform view, may continue in the plain; while others, who delight in the grand and the ſublime, and are ſtruck with the wantonneſs of wild, uncultivated nature, will prefer this road to the ſmootheſt turnpike in Great Britain.

I walked ſlowly on, without envying my companions on horſeback: for I could ſit down upon an inviting ſpot, climb to the edge of a precipice, or trace a torrent by its ſound. I deſcended at length into the *Rheinthal*, or Valley of the Rhine; the mountains of Tyrol, which yielded neither in height or in cragginеſs to thoſe of Appenzel, riſing before me. And here I found a remarkable difference: for although the aſcending and deſcending was a work of ſome labour; yet the variety of the ſcenes had given me ſpirits, and I was not ſenſible of the leaſt fatigue. But in the plain, notwithſtanding the ſcenery was ſtill beautiful and pictureſque, I ſaw at once the whole way ſtretching before me, and had no room for freſh expectations: I was not therefore diſpleaſed when I arrived at Oberried, after a walk of about twelve miles, my coat ſlung upon my ſhoulder like a peripatetic by profeſſion. Here we procured a narrow cart;

in which, the roads being rough and ſtony, you will readily believe we were not much at our eaſe. The evening however being fine, and the moon exceedingly bright, our journey was not altogether diſagreeable; as it led us through a delightful country abounding in vines, fruit-trees, flax, and paſturage.

The Rheinthal is a bailliage belonging to Appenzel and the eight antient cantons, which alternately appoint a bailif. The people are of both religions, but the Proteſtants are the moſt numerous.

Wallenſtadt, July 28.

We quitted Salets this morning, in the ſame cart in which we arrived; and it would have afforded matter of ſome ſpeculation, to obſerve how we contrived to arrange ourſelves, our ſervants, a large Newfoundland dog, and the baggage, in ſo narrow a compaſs: indeed we were ſo wedged in, that, after we had once fixed ourſelves in our ſeveral places, it was almoſt impoſſible to ſtir. The day was ſultry, and the ſun powerful, the road bad, and the cart went barely at the rate of three miles an hour; but the country ſtill continued ſo pictureſque and mountainous; and our attention was ſo entirely engaged with the perpetual variety of objects it preſented to our view, as to make us forget the inconveniences of our equipage, and the exceſſive heat of the weather. From Trivabach, a ſmall village upon the Rhine, we walked to Sargans, the capital of a bailliage of the ſame name, belonging to the eight antient cantons.

Let me here remark, that in Switzerland there are two ſorts of bailliages: the one conſiſting of certain diſtricts, into which all the ariſtocratical cantons are divided; and over theſe a particular officer, called a *bailif*, is appointed by government, to which he is accountable for his adminiſtration: the other ſort are the territories that do not make part of the cantons, but are ſubject to two or more of them, who by turns appoint a bailif. This officer, when not reſtrained by the peculiar privilege of certain diſtricts, has the care of the police, juriſdiction in civil and criminal cauſes with ſome limitations; and enjoys a ſtated revenue ariſing in different places from various duties and taxes. In caſe of exaction or mal-adminiſtration, an appeal always lies from the bailif to the cantons, to which the bailliage belongs: and the place, the time, and the members who receive the appeal, are regulated with the utmoſt exactneſs. With reſpect to this of Sargans, and the others belonging to the eight antient cantons conjointly;

at the concluſion of the general diet held annually at Frauenfield in Thurgau, the deputies of theſe cantons reſolve themſelves into a Syndicate, examine the accounts of the public revenues as delivered by the bailiſs of the reſpective diſtricts, and receive and judge all appeals; in ſome caſes finally; but in the more important cauſes an appeal lies from this aſſembly to the ſuperior tribunal of each canton. The theory of this inſtitution, has a plauſible appearance of impartiality: but how far the practice accords with the theory, I cannot pretend to determine. Whether a bailiſ, who is guilty of extortion, is eaſily brought to juſtice, or more eaſily ſcreened? how far the members of the Syndicate are liable to influence, or open to corruption? how far the expence of appeals renders them in many caſes impracticable to the poorer inhabitants? are queſtions which cannot be anſwered but by a perſon well informed concerning theſe courts of juſtice.

We arrived late at Wallenſtadt, a town incorporated into the bailliage of Sargans, but enjoying ſeveral diſtinct privileges: it derives its exiſtence from the paſſage of the merchandiſe tranſported from Germany through the Griſons to Italy. This communication occaſions the frequent reſort of Italian merchants; and that language is underſtood by many of the inhabitants. Our landlord ſpeaks Italian, and has been very accurate in his anſwers to my queſtions relating to the number of inhabitants, the government of the town, its dependence upon the bailif, and its privileges. Nor is this a matter of wonder: for the innkeepers in Switzerland are moſtly *burghers*, and are frequently members of the ſovereign council; and, from the very nature of their governments, the Swiſs in general are well informed of their particular conſtitutions. I have alſo held a long converſation with a native of Glarus, who has furniſhed me with much information in relation to that canton: which we purpoſe viſiting to-morrow.

Weſen, July 29.

The lake of Wallenſtadt, about twelve miles in length, and two in breadth, is entirely bounded by high mountains, except to the eaſt and weſt. From this ſituation, a breeze generally blows from thoſe two quarters, beginning at break of day, and continuing for ſome hours; then changes from weſt to eaſt till ſun-ſet: this breeze is very convenient for the tranſportation of the merchandiſe. Sometimes however a violent north-wind ruſhes down from the mountains, and renders the navigation dangerous.

We were aſſured by the inhabitants, and by the watermen who rowed us from Wallenſtadt to this place, that the breeze abovementioned was generally conſtant: but we cannot atteſt it from our own experience; as we ſet out this morning about eight, and the wind was directly contrary the whole way, blowing from weſt to eaſt. The weather, it is true, was heavy, overcaſt, and rainy, which might cauſe perhaps this occaſional variation.

The ſcenery of the lake is uncommonly wild and pictureſque, and affords a perpetual variety of beautiful and romantic ſcenes. On the ſide of Glarus, the mountains which form its borders, are chiefly cultivated; enriched with wood or fine meadows; and ſtudded with cottages, churches, and ſmall villages; the Alps of Glarus riſing behind, their tops covered with ſnow. On the other ſide, for the moſt part, the rocks are groteſque, craggy, inacceſſible, and perpendicular: but here and there a few cultivated necks of land are formed at the very edge of the lake, and at the bottom of theſe very rocks; exhibiting a beautiful contraſt to the barrenneſs above and around them. Numberleſs waterfalls, occaſioned by the melting of the ſnows, fall down the ſides of the mountains from a very conſiderable height, and with an almoſt inconceivable variety; ſome of them ſeeming to glide gently in circular directions; others forming vaſt torrents, and ruſhing into the lake with noiſe and violence: all of them changing their form and their poſition as we approached or receded from them. The lake is exceedingly clear, deep, and cold, and, as we were informed, is never frozen.

There is nothing remarkable in this place; being a ſmall village ſituated almoſt upon the point where the Mat iſſues from the lake of Wallenſtadt: that little river is joined by the Linth, and both united fall, under the name of Limmat, into the lake of Zuric.

I am, &c.

LETTER 6.

The Canton of Glarus.

Glarus, July 29.

THE canton of Glarus was formerly ſubject to the abbeſs of the convent of Seckinguen in Suabia: the people however enjoyed very conſiderable privileges and a democratical form of government, under the adminiſtration of a mayor, appointed by the abbeſs, but choſen among the inhabitants. Towards the latter end of the thirteenth century, the emperor Rodolph I. obtained the excluſive adminiſtration of juſtice; and not long afterwards his ſon Albert, having purchaſed the mayoralty, which had gradually become hereditary, re-united in his perſon the whole civil and judicial authority. Accordingly that prince, and his immediate deſcendents the dukes of Auſtria, oppreſſed the people, and ruled over them with an abſolute ſway. In 1350, Schweitz, aſſiſted by Zuric, Lucerne, Uri, and Underwalden, expelled the Auſtrians from the canton of Glarus, and re-eſtabliſhed the democracy. Glarus then entered into a perpetual alliance with its deliverers, and was received into the Helvetic confederacy with ſome reſtrictions, which were not aboliſhed until 1450. At that time it was the ſixth canton, but is now the laſt in rank of the eight *antient* cantons, as they are called; being ſo diſtinguiſhed, becauſe, from the acceſſion of Zug and Berne in 1352, more than a century elapſed before a new member was admitted. Theſe *antient* cantons have alſo ſeveral privileges ſuperior to the five others; the latter having ſubmitted to ſome particular reſtrictions, upon their reception into the Helvetic league.

The people of Glarus enjoyed their liberties unmoleſted till 1388, when the Auſtrians made an irruption into the canton, with a force ſufficient, as they arrogantly thought, totally to ſubdue it; pillaging the country, and maſſacring the inhabitants. It was then that three hundred and fifty troops of Glarus, aſſiſted by thirty Switzers, reſiſted the whole ſtrength of the Auſtrian army: the former were poſted advantageouſly upon the mountains, and the latter, to the number of fifteen thouſand, at a village called Næfels. In this ſituation the Auſtrians began the attack; but were ſoon compelled to retreat with great precipitation, by a ſhower of ſtones poured upon them from the heights: in this moment of confuſion, the inhabitants ruſhed down upon the enemy with ſuch redoubled fury, that they broke their ranks; and, after an immenſe ſlaughter, forced the remainder to retire from the canton. Theſe ſurpriſing victories, gained by a handful of men againſt an enemy ſo much ſuperior in number (inſtances of which are by no means rare in the hiſtory of Switzerland) render the wonderful combats of Marathon and Platæa, when the Greeks repulſed the numerous hoſts of the whole Perſian empire, perfectly credible. The ſame love of independence, the ſame dread of ſlavery, and the ſame attachment to their country, animated the reſpective nations to the ſame deeds of heroiſm; and in both inſtances victory was followed by the ſame glorious conſequences: for the Swiſs, as well as the Greeks, owe the riſe and preſervation of their liberties to that magnanimous and determined valour, which prefers death to living under the ſervile domination of an arbitrary deſpot. The people ſtill celebrate the anniverſary of this victory, which inſured their independence: and I ſaw near the village of Næfels ſeveral ſtones, with no other inſcription than 1388: an inſcription which no more requires explanation, to an inhabitant of the canton, than the glorious æra of 1688, to an Engliſhman.

In the ſixteenth century, the reformation was introduced into this canton, but not excluſively:

both religions are tolerated, and the two ſects live together in the greateſt harmony; an union the more remarkable, when we conſider the fatal quarrels that have been kindled in Switzerland on account of religious tenets; and that in Appenzel the diviſion between the two ſects is diſtinctly marked by their inhabiting different diſtricts, and living under ſeparate governments. In ſeveral parts of this canton, the Proteſtants and Catholics ſucceſſively perform ſervice in the ſame church; and all the offices of ſtate are amicably adminiſtered by the two parties. During the preſent and preceding century, the Proteſtants have increaſed conſiderably in number; and their induſtry, in every branch of commerce, is greatly ſuperior: an evident proof how much the tenets of the Roman Catholic church fetter the genius, and depreſs the powers of exertion.

The government is entirely democratical: every perſon at the age of ſixteen has a vote in the *Landſgemeind*, or general aſſembly, which is annually held in an open plain. This aſſembly ratifies new laws, lays contributions, enters into alliances, declares war, and makes peace. The *Landamman* is the chief of the republic, and is choſen alternately from the two ſects; with this difference, that the *Proteſtant* remains three years in office, the *Catholic* only two. The manner of election is as follows: five candidates choſen by the people draw lots for the charge. The other great officers of ſtate, and the bailifs, are taken alſo by lot from a certain number of candidates propoſed by the people. The executive power is veſted in the council of regency, compoſed of forty-eight Proteſtants, and fifteen Catholics: each ſect has its particular court of juſtice; and it is neceſſary, that in all law-ſuits between two perſons of different religions, the perſon having the caſting voice among the five or nine judges, who are to determine the cauſe, ſhould be of the ſame religion as the defendant.

Cattle, cheeſe, and butter, conſtitute the principal commerce of the canton. The cattle are fed in ſummer upon the Alps: and it is computed, that ten thouſand head of large cattle, and four thouſand ſheep, are paſtured during that ſeaſon upon the mountains belonging to the canton. The inhabitants alſo manufacture linen and muſlins.

Among the exports a conſiderable article is ſlate; with which the canton abounds. The principal quarry is in the valley of Sernft, where large ſlates are dug up that ſerve for tables. Theſe quarries, as I am informed by Mr. David Pennant, once furniſhed Great Britain with ſlates for writing, or accomptants ſlates; but this trade is entirely loſt. Of late they have been prepared from the great ſlate quarries in Caernarvonſhire, the property of Lord Penryn; and with ſuch ſucceſs, as bids fair to extend this article of commerce over moſt part of Europe.

July 30.

I am juſt returned to Glarus, after having made an excurſion towards the extremity of the canton: it is entirely encloſed by the alps, except towards the north; and there is no other entrance but through this opening, which lies between the lake of Wallenſtadt and the mountains ſeparating this canton from that of Schweitz. Paſſengers indeed may in ſummer traverſe theſe alps to the Griſons on one ſide, and to Uri on the other: but theſe paths are in winter abſolutely impracticable. At the entrance abovementioned, the canton reaches, from the banks of the Linth to the fartheſt extremity of its alps, about thirty miles; forming a valley, which becomes narrower as you advance, and is ſcarcely more than a muſket-ſhot in breadth at the burgh of Glarus. It afterwards opens by degrees; and about a league from the laſt-mentioned burgh, is divided by the Freyberg mountains: at the point of this diviſion the two rivers, Linth and Sernft, unite.

We continued through the largeſt of theſe vallies, which, though very narrow, is exceedingly populous. You have been at Matlock in Derbyſhire, and I remember your admiration of its beautiful and romantic ſituation: the ſcenery of this valley is of the ſame caſt, but infinitely more picturesque; more wild, more varied, and more ſublime. The Linth is much broader and more rapid than the Derwent; and the hillocks of the Peake are mere mole-hills to the alps of Glarus. Theſe ſtupendous chains of rocks are abſolutely perpendicular, approach one another ſo near and are ſo high, that the ſun may be ſaid to ſet, even in ſummer, at four in the afternoon. On each ſide are numbers of thoſe water-falls we ſo much admired during our paſſage over the lake of Wallenſtadt; one in particular, near the village of Ruti, foamed down the ſteep ſides of a mountain, from the midſt of a hanging grove of trees. I was ſo captivated with theſe enchanting ſcenes, that I could not help ſtopping every moment to admire them: and our guide, not conceiving it poſſible, that theſe delays could be owing to any other cauſe than the lazineſs of his horſe, never failed to ſtrike the poor beaſt; and continually awakened me out of my rapturous contemplations; and it was ſome time before I could make him comprehend, that I ſtopped by choice, and wiſhed to continue my own pace. After having rode about ten miles, we quitted our horſes and walked. Near Leugelbach, a conſiderable rivulet is formed by two ſtreams burſting from the ground at the foot of a mountain, which after a few paces unite, and fall into the Linth: beſide theſe two principal branches, ſeveral ſmaller ſprings, and numberleſs little fountains, guſh from the rock.—The clearneſs of the ſtreams; their rapidity and murmuring ſound; the trees that hang over the point from whence they iſſue; the rude rocks above; the rich meadows and ſcattered hamlets—all together form an aſſemblage of the moſt lively and pleaſing objects that ever entered into a beautiful landſcape.

I am informed by David Pennant, Eſq. that Salmons force their way annually from the ſea as high as this river, to depoſit their ſpawn. Their progreſs is up the Rhine, and out of that noble river up the Aar, and through the lake of Zuric into the Linth; a courſe of many hundred miles. They are taken in theſe diſtant parts in September and October, and about the ſize of ſeventeen or twenty pounds weight.

We croſſed the Linth ſeveral times, which ruſhes with all the violence of a torrent; and came at length to an amphitheatre of mountains, where the valley ended: on our right-hand a fall more conſiderable than any we had yet ſeen, tumbling perpendicularly over a bare rock in a large body of water; the alps on each ſide crowned with inacceſſible foreſts, and covered with everlaſting ſnow; before us a pyramidical mountain, bare and craggy; and the glaciers of Glarus cloſing the view. Here the valley, and the habitable part of the canton terminate. We then quitted the plain, and aſcending through a wild foreſt of beech and pines, continued more than an hour mounting a very ſteep and rugged path, till we came to the Panten-Bruck, a bridge over the cataract that forms the Linth, which is here called the Sand-bach: it roars from the glacier down the ſteep mountain in one unbroken fall; and, a little way before its arrival under the bridge, works itſelf a ſubterraneous paſſage through the rock, where it is loſt only to appear again with increaſed violence and precipitation. The bridge is a ſingle arch of ſtone, of about ſeventy feet in length, thrown over a precipice of above three hundred feet in depth. It ſerves as a communication with the upper alps, and is the paſſage for the cattle which are fed there during the ſummer months; on the other ſide ſome goats came jumping around us, and ſeemed to welcome us to their dreary habitations. Theſe mountains are covered with a great variety of rare plants, which made me regret, that I had not purſued my botanical ſtudies. As I leaned upon the parapet of the bridge, and looked down into the chaſm beneath, my head almoſt turned giddy with the height. The rock, down which the Sand-bach drives, is compoſed of ſlate. After we had continued ſome time admiring the ſublime horror of the ſcenery, we deſcended into the valley, and made a hearty meal upon ſome excellent bread, honey, butter, and milk, which a neighbouring cottage ſupplied. As the canton almoſt entirely conſiſts of rich meadows, the milk and butter are delicious; and the honey of theſe mountainous countries is moſt exquiſite. Nothing delights me ſo much as the inſide of a Swiſs cottage: all thoſe I have hitherto viſited, convey the livelieſt image of cleanlineſs, eaſe, and ſimplicity; and cannot but ſtrongly impreſs upon the obſerver a moſt pleaſing conviction of the peaſant's happineſs.

If I had never ſeen theſe little democratical ſtates, I could have formed no idea of the general equality and indiſtinction that prevails among the inhabitants. All the houſes, like thoſe of Appenzel, are built of wood; large, ſolid, and compact, with great penthouſe roofs that hang very low, and extend beyond the area of the foundation. This peculiar ſtructure is of uſe to keep off the ſnow; and, from its ſingularity, accords ſurpriſingly with the beautiful wildneſs of the country. The houſes of the richer inhabitants in the principal burghs, are of the ſame materials: the only difference conſiſts in their being larger.

If that ſort of government be confeſſedly the beſt, which conſtitutes the greateſt good of the greateſt number in the community; theſe little ſtates, notwithſtanding the natural defects of a democratical conſtitution, may juſtly claim a large ſhare of our approbation. General liberty, general independence, and an exemption from arbitrary taxes, are bleſſings which amply compenſate for a want of thoſe refinements that are introduced by opulence and luxury. But it is only in theſe ſmall republics, and in ſuch a ſtate of ſociety, that this kind of general democracy can have place. And although the machine of government is conſiderably clogged by that variety of wheels required to put it into motion; yet it is not neceſſary that its deciſions ſhould be ſudden and expeditious: for, as there is no fear of an invaſion, and as the people have no conqueſts either to make or to defend; their principal policy conſiſts in maintaining their independence, and in preſerving the public tranquillity.

The police is well regulated throughout Switzerland; and even in theſe democratical ſtates, liberty does not often degenerate into licentiouſneſs: we may except, perhaps, the day of their general aſſemblies, when it is impoſſible to prevent ſome degree of confuſion in a meeting where there is ſcarcely any diſtinction of perſons; and where every peaſant conſiders himſelf as equal to the firſt magiſtrate.

Our hoſt is an open-hearted, honeſt Swiſs: he brings his pint of wine, ſits down to table with us, and chats without the leaſt ceremony. There is a certain forwardneſs of this kind which is inſupportable when it apparently is the effect of impertinent curioſity, or fawning officiouſneſs; but the preſent inſtance of frank familiarity, ariſing from a mind conſcious of its natural equality, and unconſtrained by arbitrary diſtinctions, is highly pleaſing; as the ſimple demeanour of unſophiſticated nature is far preferable to the falſe refinements of artificial manners.

I am, &c.

LETTER 7.

The Abbey of Einſidlin—Rapperſchwyl.

Einſidlin, July 31.

WE could not paſs through this part of the country, without making a pilgrimage to Einſidlin, and paying our reſpects to this celebrated ſhrine: an object of much devotion among the Catholics. Einſidlin, or *Notre Dame des Hermites*, is a rich and magnificent abbey of Benedictines in the canton of Schweitz, which owes its celebrity to the miraculous image, as it is called, of the Virgin Mary. The ridiculous tales they relate of the origin and aggrandizement of this abbey, are ſo many melancholy inſtances of the credulity of the darker ages: that they are ſtill believed in the preſent enlightened century, muſt be attributed to the force of habitual prejudice; and at the ſame time proves, how difficult it is for the human mind to ſhake off thoſe ſuperſtitious errors, which it has early imbibed under the name of religion.

In the ninth century a certain hermit called Meinrad, was the firſt who retired to this place, where he built a chapel, and was aſſaſſinated by robbers. But ſhall I tell you, or (what is more to the purpoſe) will you believe me if I tell you, that this murder was diſcovered by two crows, who followed the aſſaſſins to Zuric, where they were ſeized and executed? Soon after, the dead body of St. Meinrad of courſe works miracles; and all the world pilgrimiſes to his bones. The ſanctity of this place being thus eſtabliſhed, ſome one (for whether it were St. Benno or St. Eberhard, or what other ſaint I cannot preciſely determine) conſtructed another chapel, which he dedicated to the Virgin, and laid the firſt foundation of the abbey; having bequeathed for that purpoſe his whole fortune: and the pious fund was ſoon conſiderably augmented by ſubſequent donations. Shall I tell you alſo, that in 948, Conrad, biſhop of Conſtance, as he was going to conſecrate the chapel, heard a voice from heaven, aſſuring him, that God himſelf had conſecrated it? Whatever was its origin, and whoever was its founder; crouds of pilgrims reſort hither from all quarters to adore the Virgin, and to preſent their offerings: and it is computed, that upon the moſt moderate calculation, their number amounts yearly to 100,000. The circumjacent country was formerly a continued foreſt, which ſince the erection of the abbey has been gradually converted into rich paſtures and beautiful meadows;

dows: and this is a miracle which the Virgin, in a certain ſenſe, may be truly ſaid to have performed.

Auguſt 1.

I have juſt been viſiting the abbey, the chapel of the Virgin, and her immenſe treaſures. The church of the abbey is a large and magnificent building, but exhibits a remarkable ſpecimen of falſe taſte, by being loaded with bad paintings, and ſuperfluous ornaments. In the aile not far from the entrance, is a ſmall and elegant marble chapel of the Corinthian order: this is the celebrated ſhrine of the Virgin, to which the pilgrims reſort. On the outſide an angel ſupports the following inſcription:

Hic eſt plena remiſſio peccatorum omnium a culpâ et pœnâ.

Over the door is a plate of ſilver with five holes, into which I ſaw ſeveral perſons thruſting their fingers, and praying at the ſame time with great fervour: upon inquiry I found, that the credulous people believed theſe holes to be the marks of God's fingers. In the inſide of this chapel is the image of the Virgin, which vies with the lady of Loretto in *beauty* of countenance; her face, as well as that of the child ſhe holds in her arms, being black. She is richly apparelled, and changes her garment every week; her wardrobe conſiſting of fifty-two different ſuits.

The riches of the treaſury are immenſe; containing numberleſs offerings of gold, ſilver, and precious ſtones, arranged in the moſt ridiculous manner; alſo ſkulls and bones ſumptuouſly ornamented; whole ſkeletons of ſaints in maſquerade, and of ladies with ruffles, fly-caps, and ſplendid apparel as if dreſſed for a ball. What a wretched inſult upon poor human nature! I could not help conſidering them with a mixture of pity and indignation, as the offerings of ignorance before the ſhrine of bigotry and ſuperſtition. The miracles which the Virgin has wrought in this country are infinite, if we may judge from the numerous figures of ears, eyes, legs, arms, heads, &c. preſented by thoſe, who fancied themſelves reſpectively cured in thoſe ſeveral members, by the power of this wonder-working image.

I was glad however to find, in the midſt of this ſuperſtitious trumpery, a good library, which contained ſome fine editions of the claſſics.

In this place there is a conſiderable traffic in roſaries, croſſes, and little images; and there are rows of ſhops, where nothing is to be purchaſed but theſe neceſſary appendages of the Roman

man Catholic religion: it has all the appearance of a fair. There is alſo a room in the abbey, where the ſame kind of merchandiſe is expoſed to ſale; and one of the friars attends to receive your money, and very gravely aſſures you, that the ſeveral articles have touched the ſacred image. Among other curioſities of this kind, I purchaſed two ribands, for two pence each, with the following inſcription upon them: *Ce Ruban entier, eſt la longueur; juſqu'au trait eſt l'epaiſſeur, de l'image de Notre Dame des Hermites. Il a touché l'image miraculeuſe.*

This abbey is very rich, and has conſiderable revenues in the canton of Zuric. The abbot, who is titular prince of the German empire, is elected by ſixty Benedictines, that form the chapter.

As I walked to this celebrated convent, I found the whole way furniſhed with ſtalls, provided with cakes, whey, and other refreſhments for the numerous pilgrims then on their road. I ſaw ſeveral hundreds, in groups of different numbers. Some conſiſted of a whole pariſh, attended by their ſpiritual paſtor. More than once, I obſerved ſome grievous ſinner driven from the flock, and walking at a diſtance counting his beads, bare-footed and bare-headed, do-ing full penance for his crimes. I alſo ſaw ſeveral bevies of merry damſels, who ſeemed to enjoy the pilgrimage as much as Welſh laſſes reliſh a wake. They often turned into the little chapels which lay open on the way, and wantonly ſprinkled each other with holy water.

This day's journey reminded me of Chaucer's Tales, in which he exactly deſcribes this pilgrimage, in his account of that to the ſhrine of St. Thomas of Canterbury:

> *From every place the pious ramblers ſtray,*
> *But moſt to good Einſidlin bend their way;*
> *There, at the martyr's ſhrine, a cure they find*
> *For each ſick body, and each love-ſick mind.*

Rapperſchwyl, Auguſt 2.

The evening, yeſterday, being fine and cool, I walked from Einſidlin to this place. After we had aſcended about three miles, a view of the lake of Zuric, and of the adjacent country, opened upon us at once. The proſpect was extenſive and beautiful: the ſolemn ſtillneſs of the evening, the calmneſs of the lake, and the tints of the ſetting ſun, which glowed around the horizon, very much improved its charms. When we arrived at the lake, the moon began to riſe; and, throwing its beams acroſs the water, formed another ſcene, more mild indeed, but not leſs affecting. We then croſſed the bridge of Rapperſchwyl, built over the narroweſt part of the lake: it meaſured near 1700 paces. The town is pleaſantly ſituated upon a neck of land or promontory. It formerly threw itſelf under the protection of Uri, Schweitz, Underwalden, and Glarus, with a reſerve of all its privileges: but theſe cantons ſhamefully oppreſſing the inhabitants, and encroaching upon their liberties; Zuric and Berne took poſſeſſion of the town in 1712, and reſtored its antient immunities. From that period Rapperſchwyl has continued under the protection of Zuric, Berne, and Glarus; the latter having preſerved its right by its neutrality. By this treaty the town having recovered its former prerogatives, the inhabitants, in teſtimony of their gratitude, placed the following inſcription over the gates: *Amicis Tutoribus floret libertas.*

This ſmall republic is governed by a great and little council, conſiſting of forty-eight members. The town contains two hundred burghers, and about a thouſand inhabitants, all Catholics. Its territory is about a league in circumference, and comprehends three pariſhes.

Yours, &c.

LETTER 8.

Town and Canton of Zuric.

Zuric, Auguſt 3.

YESTERDAY we dined luxuriouſly with the Capuchin friars at Rapperſchwyl, who ſeldom treat their gueſts in ſo ſumptuous a manner. It was one of their great feaſt-days; and they regaled us with every variety of fiſh, with which the lake and the neighbouring rivers abound. The convent ſtands upon the edge of the water, and commands an agreeable proſpect: the library is by far the pleaſanteſt apartment, though not the moſt frequented. The cells of the monks are ſmall, and yet not inconvenient; but cleanlineſs does not ſeem to conſtitute any part of their moral or religious obſervances. Indeed the very habit of the order is ill calculated for that purpoſe, as they wear no ſhirt or ſtockings, and are clothed in a coarſe kind of brown drugget robe, which trails upon the ground. Strange idea of ſanctity! as if dirt could be acceptable to the Deity. I reflected with particular ſatisfaction, that I was not born a member of the

Roman Catholic church; as perhaps the commands of a parent, a ſudden diſappointment, or a momentary fit of enthuſiaſm, might have ſent me to a convent of Capuchins, and have wedded me to dirt and ſuperſtition for life.

After dinner we took leave of our hoſts, and departed for Zuric by water: the lake is near ten leagues in length, and one in breadth. This body of water is of an oblong form, and not near ſo large as that of Conſtance; but the borders are ſtudded more thickly with villages and towns. The adjacent country is finely cultivated and well peopled; and the ſouthern part of the lake appears bounded with the high ſtupendous mountains of Schweitz and Glarus: the ſcenery is picturesque, lively, and diverſified.

Zuric was formerly an imperial city, and obtained from the emperor Frederic II. very conſiderable privileges; which were acknowledged and augmented by ſeveral of his ſucceſſors. The civil war between the magiſtrates and the people, in 1335, nearly reduced the city to ruins; but the former being baniſhed, the citizens, in 1337, eſtabliſhed a new form of government, which was confirmed by the emperor Louis of Bavaria. The exiles, after ſeveral fruitleſs attempts, were at length re-admitted; but, engaging in a conſpiracy againſt the citizens, were diſcovered, and put to death. In conſequence of this tranſaction, the nobles in the neighbourhood took up arms; and Zuric, after having ineffectually applied for aſſiſtance to the emperor Chares IV. formed an alliance with Lucerne, Uri, Schweitz, and Underwalden, and was admitted a member of their confederacy. This event happened in the year 1351. The four cantons yielded the pre-eminence to Zuric: a privilege it enjoys at preſent; being the firſt canton in rank, and the moſt conſiderable in extent both of territory and power next to Berne. In the ſame year Zuric was aſſiſted by the four cantons againſt Albert duke of Auſtria, who beſieged the town, and was repulſed with great loſs.

Zuric was the firſt town in Switzerland, that ſeparated from the church of Rome; being converted by the arguments of Zuingle. Of all the reformers (the mild and elegant Melancthon alone excepted) Zuingle ſeems to merit peculiar eſteem: he poſſeſſed, to a great degree, that ſpirit of meekneſs, moderation, and charity, which are the characteriſtics of true Chriſtianity; and, amid all the diſputes between the Lutherans and the reformed churches, was a conſtant advocate for peace and reconciliation. He appears indeed to have been perfectly free, as well from that narrow bigotry which makes no diſtinction between points of the mereſt indifference, and objects of the greateſt importance; as from that overbearing pride, which, while it violently condemns the opinions of others, aſſumes to itſelf infallibility with reſpect to its own. In a word, it was his perſuaſion, that, provided Chriſtians agree in the moſt eſſential articles; they ought meekly to bear with any difference upon ſubjects leſs uncontrovertible, and which do not neceſſarily influence morals.

Ulric Zuingle was born Jan. 1, 1484, at Wildhauſen, a ſmall village in the Tockenburgh; and, in the twentieth year of his age, was appointed miniſter of Glarus. Even before the publication of the ſale of indulgences by Leo X. which was the more immediate cauſe of the reformation, Zuingle had expoſed at Glarus ſeveral ſuperſtitions of the church of Rome; and he gained additional credit, by preaching at Einſidlin againſt vows, pilgrimages, and offerings. After the publication of the ſale of indulgences; while Luther was undermining the fabric of papal authority in Germany, Zuingle was no leſs ſucceſsful in Switzerland. By his zeal and intrepidity, and by the irreſiſtible force of truth, he gained ſo many converts at Zuric (where he had been invited to preach) that in 1524 the magiſtrates aboliſhed the maſs, and other Catholic ceremonies, and introduced the reformed religion. Zuingle had taken ſuch wiſe precautions, and acted with ſuch extreme moderation, that the diſputes between the two ſects were carried on with more temper than is uſual in religious controverſies. The change, which had been ſome time in agitation, was finally determined by a plurality of voices in the ſovereign council; and the people readily and cheerfully obeyed the deciſion of their magiſtrates. The example of Zuric was ſoon followed by Berne, Schaffhauſen, Baſle, with part of Glarus and Appenzel; the other cantons continuing to adhere to the religion of their anceſtors. From this period the two perſuaſions have been eſtabliſhed in Switzerland; but that harmony, which had hitherto ſubſiſted between the cantons, has been occaſionally interrupted. In 1531, religious diſputes broke out with ſo much violence and animoſity, as to occaſion a civil war; in which the Proteſtants were defeated, and Zuingle loſt his life, in the forty-eighth year of his age, at the battle of Cappel*. Since that period two other religious wars have been kindled; one in 1656, in which the Catholics gained the advantage; and the other in 1712, when the Proteſtants proved victorious. The peace of Arau, which terminated theſe unhappy diſputes, has, it is to be hoped, finally compoſed all religious animoſities. By that treaty, which may be conſidered as a code of toleration among the Swiſs; the treatment of the Proteſtants and Catholics in the common bailliages, is regulated. The firſt article ſtipulates, that in all the provinces, which are ſubject to cantons of different religion, there ſhall be a perfect equality between the two ſects, and that they ſhall both enjoy the ſame privileges: to which is added an expreſs prohibition to each party, not to uſe any terms of raillery or contempt, in ſpeaking of their reſpective worſhips.

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* It has been urged againſt Zuingle, as a proof of his perſecuting principles, that he was perſonally engaged in this war againſt the Catholics. To this it may be anſwered, That

The canton of Zuric abounds in corn, wine, and excellent paſture. The proportion of grain to the other productions of the earth, will appear from the following calculation. There are

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That he had uſed every argument in his power to reconcile the contending parties; that he even openly arraigned the impatient and turbulent zeal of his fellow-citizens; that he acted in obedience to one of the fundamental laws of the republic; and that he accompanied the army by the expreſs command of the magiſtrates.

217,424 * acres laid out in grain, 14,466 in vines, 94,553 in meadows, 42,549 in paſturage, and 163,772 in foreſt.

As ſufficient corn is not produced for the interior conſumption, the deficiency is chiefly ſupplied from Suabia. In order to prevent a ſcarcity of this material article, a public granary is maintained at the expence of government. The grain is retailed at the common price; but, in ſeaſons of ſcarcity, is ſold conſiderably cheaper than it can be purchaſed at the market. The good effects of this eſtabliſhment appeared at the dearth in 1771; when, on account of the dearneſs of corn, a pound of bread was ſold for ten pence, the ſame quantity was delivered by government for four pence.

The wine made in the canton forms an inconſiderable object of foreign commerce; the greateſt part being conſumed in the country. In 1779 were exported 10,029 caſks, each containing 180 bottles; in 1781, 24,568; and in 1782, 11,354.

The canton contained, in 1784, 174,572 ſouls, including 10,500 in the capital. This large population, in proportion to the ſize of the canton, is owing to the trade of Zuric; as at leaſt two thirds of the inhabitants derive their livelihood

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* Of 36,000 ſquare feet each.

ſivelihood by ſpinning thread and ſilk, and making linen for the manufactures of the town.

The ſovereign power reſides excluſively in the burgeſſes of the town, conſiſting of about two thouſand.

Here I cannot but remark, that a very narrow ſpirit of policy reigns throughout moſt of the ſtates in Switzerland; as they ſeldom confer the burgherſhip. This rule, however, in ſome of the republics is leſs ſcrupulouſly obſerved than in others. But in Zuric a new citizen has not been admitted during theſe laſt hundred and fifty years.

It is curious to trace the reſtrictions which have been gradually laid on granting the burgherſhip. On the 26th of May, 1540, the Sovereign Council iſſued a decree, importing, that whoſoever was deſirous of becoming a citizen, ſhould be obliged to produce a certificate of good behaviour, properly witneſſed and ſigned, and bearing the ſeal of the magiſtrates of the place in which he formerly reſided; and ſhould, before he was enrolled among the burghers, pay ten florins, near £. 1, if a native of Switzerland, and double that ſum if a ſtranger. An inhabitant of the town or canton was taxed only at three florins for his admiſſion; and all artiſts and perſons of learning, neceſſary or uſeful to the ſtate, were to be received gratis. In 1549, it was enacted, that the burgherſhip ſhould be refuſed to all who were not poſſeſſed of conſiderable riches, or who did not introduce new arts and trades. This decree was repeatedly confirmed; and, in 1593, it was added, that a new citizen ſhould not be entitled to a ſhare in the government but on the following conditions. If an inhabitant of the canton, he muſt have reſided in the town during ten years; if a native of Switzerland, twenty; if a foreigner, forty; and that he muſt build or purchaſe a houſe within the walls of Zuric: this laſt article was repealed in 1612. In 1597, the reception of new citizens was delayed for the firſt time, but only for two years; and in 1610, the admiſſion-money was augmented.

In the commencement of the 17th century, government refuſed to receive into the Sovereign Council the noble families of Orel, Peſſaluzz, and Muralt; which, in 1555 and 1557, had quitted Italy and ſettled at Zuric: theſe families, partly on account of having embraced the reformed religion, and partly as perſons of capacity and induſtry, had been received into the burgherſhip, but rendered incapable of enjoying a ſhare in the adminiſtration of affairs. This excluſion, again confirmed in 1592, was revoked in 1673, in favour only of the family of Muralt, which exception was obtained by conſiderable largeſſes. In 1674, the family of Orel offered to diſburſe ten thouſand florins towards the expence of repairing the fortifications, on condition of being rendered capable of election into the Sovereign Council: their petition was then refuſed, but generouſly granted in 1679, without the ſmalleſt equivalent.

Finally, on the 7th of January, 1661, the Council determined to make no more burghers; which reſolution has been invariably followed.

The burghers, beſide the advantage of electing their magiſtrates, and of aſpiring to the adminiſtration of affairs, enjoy the ſole right of commerce; all ſtrangers, and even ſubjects, being excluded from eſtabliſhing manufactures in the city, or in any part of the canton.

The burghers of Zuric, are divided into thirteen tribes; one of which is called *Conſtaffel*, or the tribe of nobles, although at preſent not abſolutely confined to perſons of that deſcription: it enjoys the privilege of giving eighteen members to the Sovereign Council, and ſix to the Senate, whereas each of the other tribes only ſupply twelve to the former, and ſix to the latter.

The legiſlative authority is veſted by the burghers, in the Sovereign Council of two hundred; conſiſting, however, of two hundred and twelve members drawn from the thirteen tribes, and compriſing the Senate or Little Council. This * Senate, compoſed of fifty members, including the two burgomaſters, has juriſdiction in all cauſes civil and criminal: in the former, when the demand is of a certain importance, an appeal lies to the Council of two hundred; but in criminal affairs, their ſentence is final, and, when once paſſed, there is no poſſibility of obtaining any reverſal or mitigation. An excellent maxim! provided the judges are cautious and circumſpect, and the laws mild: for there is no greater encouragement to the commiſſion of crimes, than the frequency of pardons. Such an inſtitution, however, ought neceſſarily to exclude ſeverity of puniſhment; and could never be admitted in a ſtate, where by the letter of the law the ſame puniſhment is inflicted upon a ſheep-ſtealer as upon a parricide.

It is to be regretted, that in this republic, as in moſt other ſtates of Switzerland, there is no preciſe code of criminal law. The Caroline, or code of Charles V. is oſtenſibly followed; but on account of its obſolete uſages and extreme ſeverity, the ſentence is ultimately left to the diſcretion

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* Formerly the Senate was ſeparated into two equal diviſions, which alternately adminiſtered the office during ſix months; and although theſe diviſions ſtill continue, yet, for ſome time paſt, they have reunited and acted together.

cretion of the magiſtrates. For notwithſtanding the moſt perfect integrity, and upright intentions, yet it is hardly poſſible to ſuppoſe, that party, friendſhip, connections, and family, ſhould not frequently influence the judges and occaſion partial proceedings. It would perhaps well become the wiſdom of this enlightened and equitable government, to form a penal code, and to aſcertain, with preciſion, the puniſhment for each offence. The example of ſuch a republic would in time be followed by the remaining cantons and ſtates of Switzerland; and poſterity would bleſs the name of Zuric for having occaſioned the introduction of more ſettled principles in the criminal courts of juſtice. Some late deciſions have rendered this arrangement more obviouſly neceſſary. Several perſons diſordered in their underſtandings committed ſuicide; and, although the circumſtances of the crime were nearly ſimilar, yet the moſt oppoſite ſentences were pronounced on theſe occaſions: ſo that the families of thoſe, to whom a greater degree of ſeverity was ſhewn, were neceſſarily more diſtreſſed on account of the mildneſs manifeſted to the others.

Every judge of delicacy and honour would undoubtedly experience great ſatisfaction, to find himſelf reſtrained by preciſe laws from liſtening to ſolicitations from friends and party, and from being biaſſed by thoſe feelings, of which it is almoſt impoſſible to be diveſted.

The power of the Senate, conſidered in a collective capacity, is very conſiderable: it judges finally in all criminal cauſes, has the care of the police, and ſupplies the principal magiſtrates. But, as too great a power of individuals is dangerous in a republic; the members of this aſſembly are liable to be changed: and a reviſion or confirmation is annually made, in ſome inſtances by the Sovereign Council, in others by the particular tribes to which the ſenators belong. This annual reviſion is a great check to mal-adminiſtration; and at the ſame time prevents the Senate from gaining ſo great an influence, as to be detrimental to the liberties of the people. A burgher is qualified to vote at twenty; is eligible into the Sovereign council at thirty; and into the Senate at thirty-five. By theſe wiſe regulations, a man muſt have formed ſome experience in public affairs, before he is capable of holding an important charge. The revenues of government, though not exceeding £. 65,000 *per ann.* are more than proportionate to the expences; which are regulated with the ſtricteſt œconomy. The ſtate is not only without debts, but an annual ſaving is depoſited in the public treaſury, for a reſort upon any ſudden emergency. From this fund government-ſupported the whole expence of the war, in 1712, againſt the Catholic cantons, without impoſing any additional tax.

The canton of Zuric is divided into diſtricts or bailliages, which are governed by bailifs nominated by the Sovereign Council. Theſe bailifs, excepting thoſe of Kyburgh and Groningen, cannot paſs capital ſentence, or order torture. They can arreſt and interrogate the delinquent, and puniſh ſmall miſdemeanors by whipping, or baniſhment from the bailliage. In capital caſes, they examine, make out the verbal proceſs, and ſend the felon to Zuric for further trial. On inquiring into the ſtate of criminal juriſprudence, I learned with ſatisfaction, that the queſtion had not been inflicted in the capital for theſe laſt nine years, which may be preſumed to be a prelude to its total abolition; but it is much to be regretted, that whipping, which is a ſpecies of torture, is not unfrequently applied, in order to force confeſſion, both in Zuric and in the bailliages; an abuſe of juſtice repugnant to the wiſdom of ſo enlightened a government.

The city of Zuric ſtands at the northern extremity of the lake, and occupies both ſides of the rapid and tranſparent Limmat. Its environs are extremely delightful; an amphitheatre of hills gradually ſloping to the borders of the water, enriched with paſture and vines; dotted with innumerable villas, cottages, and hamlets; and backed on the weſt by the Utliberg, a bold and gloomy ridge ſtretching towards the Albis, and that chain of mountains which riſes gradually to the Alps.

The town is divided into two parts; the old part, ſurrounded with the ſame antient battlements and towers which exiſted in the thirteenth century, and the ſuburbs, which are ſtrengthened by fortifications in the modern ſtyle, but too extenſive. The ditches, inſtead of being filled with ſtagnant water, are moſtly ſupplied with running ſtreams. The public walk is pleaſantly ſituated in a lawn, at the junction of the Limmat and the Sil, an impetuous and turbid torrent, which deſcends from the mountains of Einſidlin: two rows of lime-trees planted by the ſide of the Limmat, and following its ſerpentine direction, afford an agreeable ſhade in the heat of ſummer. The inhabitants are very induſtrious; and carry on with ſucceſs ſeveral manufactures: the principal are thoſe of linens and cottons, muſlins, and ſilk-handkerchiefs. The manufacturers do not in general dwell within the walls; but the materials are moſtly prepared, and the work is completed in the adjacent diſtricts. For this reaſon

Zuric does not exhibit the activity and numbers of a great commercial city. The environs, on the contrary, are ſo extremely populous, that perhaps few diſtricts in the neighbourhood of a town, whoſe population ſcarcely exceeds ten thouſand inhabitants, contain within ſo ſmall a compaſs ſo many ſouls. The ſtreets are moſtly narrow; the houſes and public buildings accord more with plainneſs and convenience, than with the elegance and ſplendor of a capital.

The town contained in 1780, 10,559 ſouls, in the following proportions: 2583 male burghers, 3464 female burghers; 860 foreign clerks, 250 foreigners; 372 male inhabitants, 444 female inhabitants; 223 men-ſervants, 1734 maid-ſervants; and 629 patients in the hoſpital. The gradual decreaſe of the population in the town, which ariſes from the difficulty of obtaining the burgherſhip, will appear from the following table.

1357.	1756.	1762.	1769.	1780.
12375	11012	10616	10574	10559

The increaſe of luxury and opulence will appear from conſidering, that in 1357, the number of men-ſervants amounted to only 84, and of maid-ſervants to 263; whereas in 1780, the former were 223, and the latter 1734; or near a fifth of the whole population.

The manners of the inhabitants are in general ſimple, and may perhaps in theſe times be eſteemed antiquated. Dinner is uſually ſerved at twelve: in the afternoon the gentlemen aſſemble in clubs or ſmall ſocieties, in the town during winter, and at their reſpective villas in ſummer. They frequently ſmoke, and partake of wine, fruit, cakes, and other refreſhments. The women, for the moſt part employed in their domeſtic occupations, or devoted to the improvement of their children, are not fond of viſiting. When they go out, they generally aſſemble in ſeparate coteries, to which only a few men, and thoſe chiefly the neareſt relations, are admitted: many of the ladies indeed, from a conſciouſneſs of their provincial accent, and a difficulty of expreſſing themſelves in French, ſeldom make their appearance when ſtrangers are received. It has more than once happened to me, that on being ſhewn into the apartment wherein the ladies were aſſembled, the maſter of the houſe has taken me by the hand, and led me into another room, where he would have detained me, if I had not requeſted to be reconducted to the ladies.

This reſerve, however, among the ladies begins greatly to abate, and to give place to a more ſociable intercourſe. Such, however, is the prevalence of national habit, that a few families, which form a more agreeable mixture of company, are conſidered as differing from the eſtabliſhed cuſtoms, and are ſtill known by the name of the *French Society.*

Sumptuary laws, as well as thoſe againſt immorality, are here well obſerved. The former indeed may exiſt, and be carried into execution even among a people much corrupted; for it may be the policy of government to enforce their obſervance. But the ſevereſt penalties will not be ſufficient to prevent crimes of an immoral tendency, amidſt a general diſſoluteneſs of manners: the popular principles can alone invigorate ſuch laws, and give to them their full operation. Secret crimes cannot be prevented; but it is an evident proof of public virtue, when open breaches of morality are diſcountenanced. Among their ſumptuary laws, the uſe of a carriage in the town is prohibited to all ſorts of perſons except ſtrangers: and it is almoſt inconceivable that, in a place ſo commercial and wealthy, luxury ſhould ſo little prevail.

At Zuric the original Swiſs ſpirit of independence prevails more than in any of the large towns in this country. The magiſtrates, leſs influenced by foreign courts, and above corruption, generally conſult the real advantage of their canton, and of the Helvetic confederacy. Zuric ſtill preſerves in the general diet a very conſiderable ſway; which ſhe derives more from the opinion entertained of her integrity, than from her power: ſhe is looked up to as one of the moſt independent and upright of the thirteen cantons.

The militia of the canton amounted, in 1781, to 25,718 infantry, 1025 artillery, 886 dragoons, and 406 chaſſeurs; in all 28,235 effective men. There is a military cheſt at Zuric, eſtabliſhed in 1683, and ſupported by the members of the great council, who, inſtead of giving an expenſive entertainment, are bound on their election or farther promotion to pay a certain ſum. From this fund, which has been conſiderably augmented, £. 2000 was taken, in 1770, for the purpoſe of eſtabliſhing a magazine of uniforms and arms, which are either diſtributed, or ſold at a low price to the poor peaſants who cannot afford to purchaſe them at their full value; each peaſant, according to the military laws of the canton, being obliged to poſſeſs his arms and uniform.

The arſenal is well ſupplied with cannon, arms, and ammunition; and contains a reſerve of muſkets for thirty thouſand men. We ſaw there, and admired, the two-handed ſwords and weighty armour of the old Swiſs warriors; as alſo the bow and arrow with which William Tell is ſaid to have ſhot the apple placed on the head of his ſon.

This canton has a regiment and ſome companies in the ſervice of France, a regiment in that of Holland, and ſome companies in the ſervice of the king of Sardinia. The king of France pays annually for a regiment of fuſiliers, conſiſting of 1292 men, £. 20,348. The colonel receives about £. 840 *per ann.*; a captain £. 360: and a common ſoldier £. 7. The pay of a regiment of twelve companies, in the Dutch ſervice, is £. 25,377.

LETTER 9.

Eccleſiaſtical affairs—State of Literature—Learned Men of Zuric—Society of Phyſics—Seminaries—Libraries.

IN eccleſiaſtical affairs the Senate is ſupreme: the canton is divided into fourteen diſtricts, each governed by a dean, choſen by the ſynod, from three candidates propoſed by the clergy of the dioceſe. The ſynod, compoſed of the whole clergy, and ſeveral aſſeſſors on the part of the Little Council, meets twice a year. In the laſt century it had a more democratical form, and exercifed juriſdiction over its members: it examined cauſes between eccleſiaſtics, and between the miniſters and their pariſhioners; gave deciſions; enjoyed the power of impriſoning, depoſing, and reinſtating the miniſters; and exerciſed an authority dangerous to the ſtate. By degrees their exorbitant prerogatives were annulled; and, in 1700, the clergy of Zuric ſucceeded in the eſtabliſhment of a more ariſtocratical form.

The principal miniſters and profeſſors in the town conſtitute, in conjunction with ſeveral magiſtrates and other aſſeſſors deputed by the civil power, an eccleſiaſtical and academical council: to this committee the deans have recourſe, in all concerns which ſeem to exceed their juriſdiction: it determines leſſer affairs, and refers caſes of importance to the Senate.

The fourteen deans aſſemble twice a year in Zuric, and compoſe a *proſynode*; in which they depute one of their own body to deliver their requiſitions, or *pia deſideria*, firſt to the Eccleſiaſtical Council, and afterwards to the General Synod. The Eccleſiaſtical Council takes their requeſts into deliberation, lays them before the Synod, and if recommended, they are preſented by the aſſeſſors to the final deciſion of the Senate.

The eccleſiaſtical benefices in this canton are extremely moderate. The beſt living may be worth £. 140 *per ann.* and the worſt about £. 30. The ſalary of the canonries in the capital amount to £. 120. In general, a clergyman of the town, who has merit, is certain of obtaining a profeſſorſhip, which adds £. 50 or £. 60 *per ann.* to his other appointments.

The charitable eſtabliſhments at Zuric, are the orphan-houſe, which is regulated with extreme attention and care; an alms-houſe for poor burghers; an hoſpital for incurables, and that for the ſick of all nations, which uſually contains between ſix or ſeven hundred patients; and the *Allmoſen-Amt*, or foundation for the poor: this excellent inſtitution puts out children as apprentices; and diſtributes money, clothes, and books of devotion to poor perſons, as well in the town as in different parts of the canton, at the recommendation of the reſpective miniſters. In 1697 it diſtributed £. 300; in 1760, £. 5010; in 1770, £. 4796; and in 1778, £. 5451.

Among the particular inſtitutions muſt not be omitted the chirurgical ſeminary: it is formed by voluntary ſubſcriptions, and chiefly ſupported by

Dr. Rhan, an eminent phyſician, who reads lectures gratis, and gives the profits of a publication, called the *Magazine of Health*, towards maintaining this ſeminary, for the inſtruction of young phyſicians and ſurgeons, deſtined to ſettle in the country.

At Zuric public education is a matter of ſtate, and under the immediate protection of government. The office of a profeſſor gives rank and eſtimation, and is often held by a member of the Senate and of the Great Council. The principal literary eſtabliſhments for the inſtruction of youth are, the Caroline College for ſtudents in divinity; *Collegium Humanitatis*, or the college for polite literature; and the ſchool of arts: the firſt has twelve profeſſors, the ſecond two, and the laſt ſeven. The learned languages, divinity, natural hiſtory, mathematics, and in ſhort every ſpecies of polite learning, as well as abſtruſe ſcience, is taught at a ſmall expence in theſe reſpective ſeminaries.

In conſequence of the unremitted attention which, ſince the reformation, government has paid to the education of youth, many eminent perſons have flouriſhed in all branches of literature; and there is no town in Switzerland, where letters are more encouraged, or where they have been cultivated with greater ſucceſs. A learned profeſſor of Zuric has, in a very intereſting publication, diſplayed the important ſervices which erudition and ſcience have derived from the labours of his countrymen. In theſe biographical memoirs appear, among many others, the names of Zuingle and Bullinger, Conrad Geſner, Hottinger, Simler, Spon, Scheutzer, Heydegger, Breitinger, Bodmer, Hertzel, and Solomon Geſner.

Of all the luminaries which Zuric, fertile in great geniuſes, has ever produced, Conrad Geſner perhaps occupies the firſt place. He was born at Zuric in 1516, and died in 1564, in the 48th year of his age. Thoſe who are converſant with the works of this great ſcholar and naturaliſt, cannot repreſs their wonder and admiration at the amplitude of his knowledge in every ſpecies of erudition, and the variety of his diſcoveries in natural hiſtory, which was his peculiar delight. Their wonder and admiration is ſtill further augmented, when they conſider the groſs ignorance of the age which he helped to enlighten, and the ſcanty ſuccours he poſſeſſed to aid him in thus extending the bounds of knowledge; that he compoſed his works, and made thoſe diſcoveries which would have done honour to the moſt enlightened period, under the complicated evils of poverty, ſickneſs, and domeſtic uneaſineſs. A detail of his life and writings, by an author capable of appreciating his multifarious knowledge, would be a juſt tribute to the merits of this prodigy of learning (*Monſtrum Eruditionis*) as he is emphatically ſtiled by Boerhaave.

Bodmer, born in 1698, was alive in 1776, when I firſt viſited Switzerland; but I was at that time ignorant of the German language, and unacquainted with his great merits in reforming the taſte of his contemporaries, and familiarizing them to the ſublime beauties of Homer and Milton. He died in 1783. I now regret that I did not cultivate the acquaintance of a man, whom the unanimous voice of his contemporaries deſervedly ſtyle the Father of German literature; whoſe juſt criticiſms and correct judgment animated the poetical genius of Clopſtock, Haller, and Geſner.

I did not, however, omit waiting upon Solomon Geſner, the celebrated author of the Death of Abel, and of ſeveral idyls, which for their delicate and elegant ſimplicity are juſtly eſteemed. They abound with thoſe nice touches of exquiſite ſenſibility, which diſcover a mind warmed with the fineſt ſentiments; and love is repreſented in the chaſteſt colouring of innocence, virtue, and benevolence. Nor has he confined his ſubjects merely to the tender paſſion: paternal affection, and filial reverence; gratitude, humanity, in ſhort every moral duty is exhibited and inculcated in the moſt pleaſing and affecting manner. He has for ſome time renounced poetry in order to aſſume the pencil; and painting is at preſent his favourite amuſement. A treatiſe which he has publiſhed on landſcapes, diſcovers the elegance of his taſte, and the verſatility of his genius; while his compoſitions in both kinds prove the reſemblance of the two arts; and that the conceptions of the poet and of the painter are congenial. His drawings in black and white are preferable to his paintings; for, although the ideas in both are equally beautiful or ſublime, the colouring is inferior to the deſign. He has publiſhed a handſome edition of his writings in quarto, in which every part of the work is carried on by himſelf: he prints them at his own preſs; and is at once both the drawer and engraver of the plates. It is to be lamented that he has renounced poetry; for, while ordinary writers ſpring up in great plenty; authors of real genius are rare and uncommon. His drawings are ſeen only by a few: but his writings are diſperſed abroad, tranſlated into every language, and will be admired by future ages, as long as there remains a reliſh for true paſtoral ſimplicity, or taſte for original compoſition. He is plain in his manners; open, affable, and obliging in his addreſs; and of ſingular modeſty. Geſner died of an apoplexy, March 2d, 1788.

I called alſo on Mr. Lavater, a clergyman of Zuric, and celebrated phyſiognomiſt, who has publiſhed four large volumes in quarto on that fanciful ſubject. That particular paſſions have a certain effect upon particular features, is evident to the moſt common obſerver; and it may be conceived, that an habitual indulgence of theſe paſſions may poſſibly, in ſome caſes, impreſs a diſtinguiſhing mark on the countenance: but that a certain caſt of features conſtantly denotes certain paſſions; and that by contemplating the countenance, we can infallibly diſcover alſo the mental qualities, is an hypotheſis liable to ſo many exceptions, as renders it impoſſible to eſtabliſh a general and uniform ſyſtem. Nevertheleſs Mr. Lavater, like a true enthuſiaſt, carries his theory much farther: for he not only pretends to diſcover the characters and paſſions by the features, by the complexion, by the form of the head, and by the motion of the arms; but he alſo draws ſome inferences of the ſame kind even from the hand-writing. And indeed his ſyſtem is founded upon ſuch univerſal principles, that he applies the ſame rules to all animated nature, extending them not only to brutes, but even to inſects. That the temper of a horſe may be diſcovered by his countenance, will not perhaps ſtrike you as abſurd: but did you ever hear before, that any quality could be inferred from the phiſiognomy of a bee, an ant, or a cockchafer? While I give my opinion thus freely concerning Mr. Lavater's notions, you will readily perceive that I am not one of thoſe who are initiated into the myſteries of his art.

Mr. Lavater has not merely confined himſelf to phyſiognomy. He has compoſed ſacred hymns and national ſongs, which are much eſteemed for their ſimplicity. He has alſo given to the public numerous works on ſacred ſubjects. I am concerned to add, that the ingenious author extends to religion the ſame enthuſiam which he has employed in his reſearches on phyſiognomy, and in his poetical compoſitions: the warmth of his imagination hurries him on to adopt whatever is moſt fanciful and extraordinary; to outſtep the limits of ſober reaſon; to be an advocate for the efficacy of abſolute faith; for inward illuminations; for ſupernatural viſions; and for the miraculous effects of what is called *animal magnetiſm* in the cure of diſorders.

The inſinuating addreſs of Mr. Lavater, the vivacity of his converſation, the amenity of his manners, together with the ſingularity and animation of his ſtyle, have contributed more to diffuſe his ſyſtem and principles, than ſound arguments or deep learning, which are not to be found in his lively, but deſultory compoſitions.

Among the eminent men of Zuric, muſt not be omitted Dr. Hirtzel, a learned phyſician, who is deſervedly ſtyled the Swiſs Plutarch, and has, among various publications, more particularly diſtinguiſhed himſelf by the *Socrate Ruſtique*, and by the lives of Sultzer and Heydegger.

Leonhard Meiſter, profeſſor of hiſtory and morality in the School of Arts, deſerves to be mentioned among the learned men of Zuric. The verſatility of his talents will be collected from a bare catalogue of his principal works: which are written in the German tongue.—On Fanaticiſm; the Hiſtory of the German Language and Literature; Lives of the celebrated men of Zuric; Swiſs Biography; the moſt memorable Events of the Helvetic Hiſtory, in Chronological Order; Inſtances of Intolerance and Fanaticiſm in Switzerland; Public Law of Switzerland; Hiſtory of the Town and Canton of Zuric; Panegyric on Bodmer; Excurſions through various Parts of Switzerland; Character of the German Poets, in Chronological Order, with their Portraits; Abridgment of Antient Hiſtory, particularly of the Greeks, with an introduction on the Fine Arts and Polite Literature. In all his writings the judicious author has diſplayed great zeal for the promotion of learning, correctneſs of taſte, liberality of ſentiment, and much hiſtorical and biographical knowledge. But in his obſervations on fanaticiſm and intolerance, he has treated thoſe ſubjects in a new light: he has illuſtrated their dreadful effects on government, and civil ſociety by hiſtorical events, and in a political view; he has appealed from theory to experience, and exemplified queſtionable arguments by unanſwerable facts. In this inſtance he has been no leſs ſingularly uſeful in combating perſecution, than in repreſſing that ſpirit of fanaticiſm that prevailed among many of his countrymen, and which is diffuſed by men of lively abilities and popular manners.

The curioſity of the naturaliſt will be amply gratified by a view of the library and cabinet of Mr. John Geſner, profeſſor of phyſics, and canon of the cathedral, who inherits the zeal for natural hiſtory which characteriſed his great anceſtor Conrad Geſner. His proficiency in the ſtudy of nature, and particularly his accurate ſkill in botany, has been abundantly teſtified by the repeated acknowledgements of Haller, whom he accompanied in his herboriſing excurſions through the mountains of Switzerland, and who confeſſes himſelf indebted to Mr. Geſner for various obſervations and important diſcoveries. Mr. Geſner's cabinet is extremely rich in foſſils, and remarkable for the drawings of the principal ſpecimens in this muſeum; and for numerous repreſentations of inſects admirably painted by Schellènberg. But one of the moſt curious parts of his collection, is a great botanical work, which Haller calls *vaſtiſſimum et pulcherrimum opus*; and which, it is much to be regretted, he has hitherto withheld from the public. He has exhibited, in eighty tables, a thouſand generical characters of plants, according to the Linnæan ſyſtem, together with many of the ſpecific characters. Theſe tables, intended to illuſtrate a general hiſtory of plants, which, as appears by his own letters to Haller, the author meditated, were drawn and engraved by Geiſler, the ſame perſon who diſtinguiſhed himſelf by painting the ſhells of Regenfuſs *.

Amidſt the various occupations of Geſner, botany, to which he had an early and ſtrong attachment, has engaged a great ſhare of his attention; beſides two or three early productions in this line, he began, in the year 1759, to publiſh a work which he has extended to eight publications, in the quarto form.

The firſt ſeven parts bear the title of *Phytographia Sacra Generalis*; the remaining that of *Phytographia Sacra Specialis*. In this work the author treats on philoſophy, of vegetation in general, and on the circulation of the ſap through the particular parts of plants; on the Linnæan ſyſtem againſt the objections of Alſton; on the uſes of plants as food to man, and gives a detail of upwards of a hundred edible kinds, with a compendious account of the ſpecific properties of each; on the medicinal uſes of plants; on the various œconomical uſes of vegetables, illuſtrating in a particular manner, among many others, thoſe of the Palm-tree, Flax, and Aloes.

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* See Coxe's Travels into Poland, &c. Book viii. chap. iv.

In the latter volumes of this work, the author treats on other advantages derived to mankind from the vegetable world. He ſpeaks, for inſtance, on the nature and conſtituent parts of turf and peat, and enumerates the ſpecies of bog and fen plants which enter into the compoſition of each; on the kinds of ſhrubs proper for hedges; on timber for building, and particularly ſuch as were uſed for thoſe purpoſes by the ancients.

In the firſt part, which is all that is hitherto publiſhed, of what he names *Phytographia Sacra Specialis*, he has given an account of thoſe authors who have written on the plants of the holy ſcriptures, and enters upon the hiſtory of each.

The Society of Phyſics owes its origin to Meſſrs. Heydegger, Schultetz, and John Geſner, who firſt aſſembled in 1745, and admitted others, in order to attend a courſe of lectures on natural hiſtory. This courſe was read by Mr. John Geſner, profeſſor of phyſics, who ſo greatly excited the attention, and animated the zeal of his audience, that in a ſhort ſpace of time the members were increaſed to ſeventy. The firſt regular meeting was held in 1745, in a private houſe; and in a few years they deſerved and received the protection of government, which granted the profits of a lottery towards eſtabliſhing a fund. There are now about a hundred and twelve members: each pays on his admittance eight florins, or about ſeventeen ſhillings, and the ſame ſum annually. Since 1757, a ſuite of apartments, in a houſe belonging to one of the tribes, has been aſſigned for holding their aſſemblies, and for containing their library and apparatus.

The ſociety is divided into five departments. 1. Phyſics. 2. Mathematics. 3. Natural hiſtory. 4. Medicine. 5. Application of phyſics to arts and trades. But the grand and principal object of this ſociety, is the encouragement and improvement of practical agriculture. For this purpoſe the members correſpond with the landholders in different parts of the canton; viſit various diſtricts in rotation; ſummon to Zuric ſome of the beſt informed farmers; acquaint themſelves with the ſtate of huſbandry; give them inſtructions; offer prizes for improvements in cultivation; furniſh ſmall ſums of money to the poorer peaſants: and communicate to the public the reſult of their inquiries and obſervations.

The public library at Zuric contains about 25,000 volumes, and a few curious manuſcripts. Among the latter, the following principally attracted my attention. 1. The original manuſcript of Quintilian, found in the library of St. Gallen, and from which the firſt edition of that great rhetorician was printed. 2. The pſalms in the Greek tongue, written on parchment dyed of a violet colour. The letters are ſilver, excepting the initials, which are in golden characters, and the marginal references, which are red. It is ſimilar to the celebrated *Codex Argenteus* * in the library of Upſala. It is ſuppoſed to have once formed part of the *Codex Vaticanus*, preſerved in the Vatican library at Rome: as both of theſe manuſcripts are ſimilar, and the Roman volume is deficient in the pſalms. The learned Breitinger has publiſhed a diſſertation on this codex †. 3. Several manuſcripts of Zuingle, which prove the indefatigable induſtry of that celebrated reformer. Among theſe I particularly noticed his Latin Commentary on Geneſis and Iſaiah, and a copy of St. Paul's Epiſtles from the Greek Teſtament publiſhed by Eraſmus. At the end is written an inſcription in the Greek tongue, ſignifying, "Copied by Ulric Zuingle, 1415." It was preſented to the public library by Ann Zuingle, the laſt ſurvivor of his illuſtrious race. 4. Three Latin letters from Lady Jane Grey to Bullinger, in 1551, 1552, and 1553. Theſe letters, written with her own hand, breathe a ſpirit of the moſt unaffected piety, and prove the extraordinary progreſs which this unfortunate and accompliſhed princeſs, though only in the ſixteenth year of her age, had made in various branches of literature. The Greek and Hebrew quotations ſhew that ſhe was well acquainted with thoſe languages. Theſe letters, though given in ſeveral publications, yet are not printed with that accuracy, which the relics of ſuch a perſonage deſerve.

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* See Travels into Poland, Ruſſia, &c. Book vii. chap. vi.

† De Antiquiſſimo Turicenſis Bibliothecæ Græco Pſalmorum Libro Turici. 1748.

This library is rich in the beſt editions of the claſſics; and particularly in the early impreſſions of the 15th century.

The library of the cathedral belonging to the Caroline College, contains ſeveral manuſcripts of the reformers Bullinger, Pelican, Bibliander, and Leon Juda; particularly the tranſlation of the Talmud by Pelican and Bibliander, which has never been printed; alſo ſixty volumes of letters from Zuingle and the early reformers, with a complete index. This collection, ſo intereſting to eccleſiaſtical hiſtory, was formed by Henry Hottinger *, the learned author of the Hiſtory of the Reformation, renowned for his extenſive erudition, and particularly for his profound ſkill in oriental literature. The librarian pointed out an antient manuſcript of the Latin Vulgate, called *Codex Carolinus*, and ſuppoſed to have been a preſent from Charlemain; but without foundation, for it is certainly of much later date, probably of the eleventh century. Among the rare books is the Latin Bible, tranſlated by Pelican, Bibliander, and Leon Juda, printed at Zuric in 1545.

The lover of literary and eccleſiaſtical hiſtory will not fail to viſit the Reverend Mr. Simler's ample collection of letters and documents between Zuingle and the other reformers of Zuric, and their correſpondents in different parts of Europe. The learned profeſſor propoſed to have printed by ſubſcription, in two volumes in folio, the letters of the Engliſh reformers, ſeveral of which Burnet has publiſhed in his Hiſtory of the Reformation, but with many errors. Not finding, however, ſufficient ſubſcribers for ſo expenſive a publication, he was obliged to relinquiſh his plan, to the regret of all lovers of biography.

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* He was born in 1620; and was drowned in the Limmat, 1667.

The library of Mr. de Heydegger, ſenator of Zuric, deſerves the notice of the learned traveller. The ingenious poſſeſſor inherited from his father only 3000 volumes, which he has extended to 15,000. His principal aim is directed to thoſe books that were unknown to Maittaire, which might aſſiſt in correcting his typographical annals, and in forming an accurate and connected hiſtory of printing. In this collection are found many rare and elegant impreſſions by the Alduſes, Juntas, Giolitos, Torzentino, Stephens, Elzivers, Comino, Tonſon, Wetſtein, Baſkerville, Bodoni, Barbot, and Didot. It is particularly rich in the earlieſt impreſſions, of which there are no leſs than ſeven hundred that were printed in the fifteenth century.

Among many rare books, I noted down the following:—Ciceronis Officia. Fuſt et Scheiffer 1465. pet. in folio.—Jo. Sanuenſis Catholicon, folio. Aug. Vindel. Gunther, Zeiner et Reutlingen, 1469.—Firſt edition of Petrarcha Venet.

Vindel. de Spira, 1470. See Cat. de la Valliere, 1783. No. 3579.—Firſt edition of Dante, C. Fulginei Neumeiſter 1472. See la Valliere No. 3558.—Boccacio Genealogia Deorum et liber de Montibus et Sylvis. Venet. Vindel. de Spira, 1472 and 1473. Firſt edition.—De Claris Mulieribus. Ulma Sv. Zeiner, 1473. Firſt edition, with wooden cuts, very ſingular. See Catalogue de la Valliere, No. 3810 and 5609.—Boccacio Decamerone Venet. Gio. et Gregor. de Gregorii fratelli, 1492, folio, wooden cuts. The Decameron tranſlated into German about 1475, folio.—Mamontreclus Beronæ p. Helian Heliæ, 1470, folio. This book was printed at Munſter, in the canton of Lucerne, and is curious, becauſe it is the firſt inſtance of typography in Switzerland.

LETTER 10.

Expedition along the Borders of the Lake of Zuric —Rychterſchwyl—Iſle of Ufnau—Rapperſchwyl —Grunengen—Uſtar—Greiffenſee—Excurſion to Regenſberg, and to the Summit of the Lagerberg.

DURING my firſt tour through Switzerland, I paſſed too ſhort a time at Zuric to have an opportunity of viſiting its delightful environs, which, for the mild beauties of nature, for the numerous population, and the well-being of the peaſantry, is ſcarcely ſurpaſſed by any ſpot on the globe. Having, on ſubſequent occaſions, reſided longer at Zuric, I did not omit making ſeveral excurſions into various parts of the canton; an account of which will form the ſubject of the preſent letter.

The weather clearing up after ſeveral continued and heavy rains, on the 24th of June, 1785, I accompanied Mr. de Bonſtet of Berne, Profeſſor Meiſter, and ſome other gentlemen of Zuric, in a delightful tour round the lake. We had no need of guides, as the country was well known to my companions; and we had no incumbrance of baggage. Having made an early dinner, according to the cuſtom of the place, we departed at mid-day; and walked about three miles, through vineyards and corn-fields, to Kuſſnach, a ſmall village on the eaſt ſide of the lake. Here we paid a viſit to a gentleman, and were ſerved with tea, ſlices of bread and butter, and cherries.

In 1778, Kuſſnach was conſiderably damaged by the riſe of a ſmall torrent, which poured down from the mountains, carried away twenty-five houſes, and deſtroyed about ſixty perſons. This torrent, now only a little rill, ſwelled to ſuch a degree, as to riſe at leaſt thirty feet above its uſual level: an increaſe owing to the ſudden melting of the ſnow on the neighbouring heights. Every aſſiſtance was inſtantly afforded to the wretched inhabitants, and a collection of £.3000 was raiſed in one Sunday at the different churches of Zuric: an aſtoniſhing collection for a town which does not contain 11,000 ſouls.

I am indebted to Profeſſor Meiſter for the following obſervations on the population, induſtry, and productions of Kuſſnach, and the neighbouring villages.

Kuſſnach contains about 1700 ſouls, and the neighbouring villages are no leſs peopled: this aſtoniſhing population in ſo ſmall a compaſs is

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occaſioned by the trade of the capital, which employs ſo many hands. The proportion between the produce of the ſoil and the profits derived from working for the manufactures, may be eſtimated from the following calculation: Five pariſhes and two villages, ſituated near the lakes of Zuric and Greiffen, contain 8498 ſouls; and comprehend only 6050 acres * of arable land, 698 of vines, and 3407 of paſture, or ſcarcely an acre and a quarter for each perſon. Their ſubſiſtence is principally ſupplied by 2016 looms, by means of which they prepare ſilk and cotton for the merchants of Zuric. In theſe parts an acre is ſold for £. 100 or £. 120; whereas the ſame quantity in the interior part of the canton is worth only £. 20 or £. 30.

In ſixteen pariſhes, ſituated on the borders of the lake, the number of inhabitants, in 1784, were 32,581. There were 271 marriages, 1135 births. The proportion of the marriages to the births, as 1000 to 4188; of the births to the deaths, as 1000 to 882; of the births to the living, as 1000 to 18,705; of the deaths to the living, as 2000 to 32,515; of the males to the females, as 1090 to 1097.

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* The acre uſed in this letter contains from 32,600 to 36,000 ſquare feet.

Having repoſed ourſelves about an hour at Kuſſnach, we continued our walk through vineyards and corn-fields, ſometimes on the ſloping banks of the lake, ſometimes on a ſmall footpath formed on terraces upon a level with the water; or along narrow roads that reſemble gravel-walks winding through pleaſure-grounds and parks in England. We enjoyed, during great part of the way, the moſt agreeable ſhade from large beech and oak, walnut and other fruit-trees, that overhang like weeping willows; many of which are planted almoſt horizontally, either ſtretching from the ſides of the hill, or from the very edge of the water, their boughs dipping into the lake: the ſcattered cottages, the numerous villages, the picturesque villas placed on the banks of the lake, and ſeveral neat churches, added to the beauty of the ever-changing ſcenery.

Having walked about three miles further, we ſtopped at a peaſant's houſe in Meile, who regaled us with our uſual fare, milk and cherries, but would receive no recompenſe. Here we embarked and croſſed the lake, enjoying a moſt agreeable view of each border ſtudded with villas, churches, and villages, many of which look like large towns, as they were half concealed by the intervening trees. As we paſſed near a bold promontory, richly covered with wood, we obſerved the ſun, which was hid under a cloud, gilding the diſtant town of Rapperſchwyl, the hills towards Züric ſilvered by a milder ray, and the gloomy but ſublime mountains of Glarus boldly riſing to the ſouth.

We landed at Weddenſchweil, which is agreeably ſituated on the weſt ſide of the lake. It is the capital of a bailliage, that ſtretches to the limits of the cantons of Zug and Schweitz, and was formerly an independent lordſhip. In 1287 it was ſold by Rhodolph of Weddenſchweil to the knights of Jeruſalem; and became a commandery until 1459, when Zuric purchaſed it from the maſter of that order for 20,000 florins. The inhabitants having revolted in 1466, and being compelled to ſubmit, were deprived of ſeveral privileges, and particularly the criminal juriſdiction, which was transferred to the ſenate of Zuric. Notwithſtanding, however, the loſs of theſe immunities, the mildneſs of government is ſufficiently manifeſted, by the conſiderable increaſe of the population within this laſt century. The number of ſouls, which in 1678 conſiſted of only 4867, amounted in 1782 to 8188.

Near Weddenſchweil I obſerved a beautiful meadow, prettily ſkirted with wood, and fertilized by a lively ſtream, which tempted me to quit the road. I had ſcarcely proceeded fifty paces, before I ſaw a ſilver rill guſhing from the crevice of a rock ſprinkled with wood. As we were contemplating this pleaſing landſcape, we heard the noiſe of falling waters, and caught a glimpſe of a torrent tumbling from an elevated rock, gliſtening through the dark foliage, and richly illuminated by the rays of the ſun, which was concealed from our view. Having penetrated by the ſide of the torrent, we ſaw it burſting from the height, amid ſurrounding trees, fall about ſix feet upon a ridge, and then roll fifty feet in mid air, without touching the ſides of the precipice. The effect was peculiarly ſtriking. Nor could we ſufficiently admire the amphitheatre of rock, the beeches ſuſpended on its top and ſides, the beams of the ſun darting on the falling waters, and the noiſe of the torrent contraſting with the mild and tranquil beauties of the lake we had juſt quitted.

Our walk to Richliſwick, where we paſſed the night, was no leſs agreeable than that on the other ſide of the lake. The road ran ſometimes through meadows, at a little diſtance from the lake, ſometimes cloſe to the water, under the ſhade of trees planted caſually by the hand of nature, in the moſt capricious ſhapes: we ſcarcely advanced a hundred ſteps without paſſing a neat cottage, and meeting with peaſants, who ſaluted us as we went along. Every ſpot of ground is cultivated in the higheſt perfection.

At Richliſwick, which like Weddenſchweil contains many good houſes of ſtone, plaiſtered and white-waſhed, ornamented with green window-ſhutters, and Venetian blinds, we found an inn with comfortable accommodations. This place has a good port; is the paſſage of much merchandize; and is greatly reſorted to by the pilgrims, in their way to Einſidlin.

Early the next morning we embarked, and ſailed to the Iſle of Ufnau. The weather was uncommonly fine, the lake was quite ſtill, the reflection of the white houſes quivered on the ſurface of the water; and the hollows of the diſtant mountains ſeemed to be filled with a tranſparent vapour, which induced me to cry out, in the language of poetry,

"*Pleaſant the ſun,*
"*When firſt on this delightful land he ſpreads*
"*His orient beams, on herb, tree, fruit, and flower,*
"*Gliſt'ring with dew* *."

About a mile from Richliſwick is a ſingle houſe ſtanding on a gentle acclivity, the walls of which divide the canton of Zuric from that of

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* Milton's Paradiſe Loſt.

Schweitz, and at the ſame time ſet inſtant bounds to that induſtry and population which had hitherto attracted our wonder and delight.

In about two hours we landed at Uſnau, a pleaſant iſland, about an Engliſh mile in circumference, belonging to the abbey of Einſidlin. It has only a ſingle houſe, inhabited by a peaſant's family, two barns, a kind of tower or ſummer-houſe, ſeated on the higheſt point, a chapel which is never uſed, and a church in which maſs is ſaid only twice in the year. Within is the tomb of St. Alderic, who built an hermitage on the iſland, to which he retired. He died in 1473, and muſt have been highly revered for his ſuppoſed ſanctity; as a Latin inſcription informs us, that "he was fed with bread from "heaven, and walked upon the ſurface of the "waters."

This iſland is ſometimes called Hutten's iſland, in memory of that extraordinary perſon, who retired and died in this obſcure ſpot.

Hutten, deſcended from an illuſtrious family, was born at Seckenberg in Franconia, and receiving an education ſuitable to his birth, proſecuted his ſtudies with that impetuous zeal which was the leading mark of his character. He paſſed a life of almoſt unparalleled viciſſitude; ſometimes in the camp, ſignalized for perſonal courage; ſometimes in univerſities, where he diſtinguiſhed himſelf by various publications; ſometimes in courts, received with reſpect, or driven away for inſolence; and ſometimes wandering over different parts of Europe in extreme indigence. Having, at an early period of his life embraced the opinions of Luther, he drew both his pen and his ſword in defence of the new doctrines; was ſo intemperate in his ardour, that he was frequently impriſoned; and alarmed even the daring ſpirit of Luther by his repeated outrages. Having rendered himſelf an equal object of terror to both Lutherans and Catholics, his overbearing temper in vain ſought an aſylum, until he found it in this ſequeſtered iſland. He expired in 1523, in the 36th year of his age: a man as remarkable for his genius and learning, as for his turbulence and preſumption.

The iſland is agreeably broken into hill and dale; is extremely fertile in paſture; produces hemp, flax, a few vines, and a ſmall tufted wood, which overhangs the edge of the water. It is the only iſland in the lake of Zuric, except an uninhabited rock, which yields a ſmall quantity of hay.

Having reimbarked, we ſoon landed at Rapperſchwyl, which I have deſcribed in a preceding letter; and continued aſcending amid hanging

ing encloſures of paſture and corn, commanding a fine view of the lake, hills, mountains, and alps. Having paſſed the little territory belonging to Rapperſchwyl, we came into the canton of Zuric. On entering a neat cottage, to inquire the road, we ſaw a peaſant teaching about thirty children to read and write. On expreſſing my ſurprize and ſatisfaction, I was informed that each village has a peaſant ſchoolmaſter, either entirely or partly paid by government; and that in this canton there is ſcarcely a child who is not inſtructed in reading and writing. A little further we entered another cottage, where the miſtreſs of the houſe offered us milk and cherries, and placed upon the table nine or ten large ſilver ſpoons.

We continued our walk through an encloſed, hilly, and well-wooded country, and arrived about mid-day at Grunengen, a ſmall burgh, capital of the bailliage. After dinner we paid a viſit to the bailif, who reſides in the caſtle, which ſtands on an elevated rock, overlooking an extenſive proſpect; towards the ſouth wild and romantic, towards the weſt rich and well cultivated, watered by a lively ſtream which flows from the lake of Pfeffikon.

The bailif poſſeſſes conſiderable authority. He judges civil and criminal affairs, in the preſence of certain jurymen and the under-bailif;

but can paſs ſentence without their concurrence, as neither of them enjoys a vote. He can puniſh all crimes which are not capital; can order whipping, or even the torture to be inflicted, when the criminal is convicted, and will not confeſs; and I was greatly ſhocked to find that this horrid expedient had been lately practiſed. Even in capital caſes he can condemn to death, provided he ſummons eighty jurymen from the different diſtricts to be preſent at the trial; but as this cuſtom is attended with much expence, he uſually remits the felon to Zuric. In civil proceedings an appeal lies from his deciſion to the ſenate of Zuric.

If the bailif abuſes his power, the ſenate readily liſtens to the complaints of the oppreſſed inhabitants, and would not fail to puniſh the unjuſt judge. An inſtance of this impartiality occurred in 1754, when the bailif being proved guilty of extortions, though he was ſon-in-law to the burgomaſter, was fined and baniſhed from Switzerland. I learned this fact, on obſerving a vacant place in the ſeries of coats of arms belonging to the ſeveral bailifs, which are painted in the hall of the caſtle; the arms of the extortioner, which once filled this vacant place, had been eraſed by order of government.

From Grunengen we purſued our courſe

through lanes, fields, and encloſures, along a moſt delightful country, abounding in vines, corn, paſture, and wood. As the ſetting ſun gradually deſcended below the horizon, we frequently looked back upon the diſtant alps, whoſe lower parts were duſky and gloomy; and whoſe ſummits were

> " *Arrayed with reflected purple and gold,*
> " *And colours dipt in heav'n* [*]."

At the cloſe of the evening I arrived at Uſtar; regretting that our day's journey was concluded, and not feeling in the leaſt fatigued with a walk of eighteen miles, from Rapperſchwyl to Uſtar; ſo greatly had I been occupied and delighted with the beauties of this romantic country.

Uſtar is a large pariſh, containing 3000 ſouls; the wooden cottages are neat and commodious, reſemble thoſe in the canton of Appenzel, and are diſperſed in the ſame manner over the hills and dales.

The ſun had ſcarcely riſen before we quitted our beds, and walked to the caſtle of Uſtar. It ſtands boldly on an elevated rock, planted to its very ſummit with vines, and commands a moſt extenſive view, bounded by the Jura, the mountains of the Black Foreſt, and the chain of alps ſtretching from the canton of Appenzel to the confines of the Vallais. Below and around, the country reſembled the moſt cultivated and encloſed parts of England; a ſmall lively ſtream winded through an immenſe plain; while the lake of Greiffen appeared like a broad river, waſhing the bottom of the adjacent hills.

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[*] Milton.

This caſtle was formerly the reſidence of the counts of Uſtar, who held it and the diſtrict as a fief from the counts of Ravenſpurgh, and was at that time a ſtrong fortreſs. On the extinction of that houſe, in the middle of the fourteenth century, it was transferred to the family of de Bonſtet; and in 1552 was purchaſed by Zuric, and united to the bailliage of Greiffenſee.

M. de Bonſtet, whom I have mentioned as one of our party, derived great ſatisfaction in tracing the antiquity and hiſtory of this ſeat, formerly poſſeſſed by his anceſtors, and in obſerving the family arms painted upon the glaſs windows. This caſtle is now a private gentleman's houſe, and belongs to Mr. Teyler of Weddenſchweil.

From Uſtar we croſſed the fields, and arrived at the lake of Greiffen. We walked for ſome way upon the turf, along its borders, under the pendulous branches of oak, beech, and elms. This lake is of an oblong ſhape, about ſix miles long, and a mile broad. On one ſide the ſhores are flat, or gently riſing, on the other, hills richly wooded. The dearth of cottages and inhabitants, in this delightful but ſolitary ſpot, formed a ſtriking contraſt with the numerous villages we had recently quitted; while the ſouthern extremity of the lake ſeemed almoſt bounded by that magnificent chain of alps, which conſtantly engaged our attention.

Having embarked in a ſmall boat, we paſſed the village of Greiffen, pleaſingly ſituated on a ſmall promontory emboſomed in a wood, and landed at the northern extremity of the lake. Here I bathed, and walked on gently, aſcending through fertile grounds, delightfully planted with oak, beech, and poplars, and innumerable fruit-trees. At a ſmall village we ſtopped at the parſonage. You can ſcarcely form to yourſelf an adequate idea of the neatneſs and ſimplicity which reign in theſe parts. The clergyman's two daughters, about fifteen or ſixteen years of age, politely brought milk and cherries for our refreſhment. They were neatly dreſt, like the peaſant girls, in ſtraw hats, their ſhift-ſleeves tied, as is the cuſtom of the country, above their elbows.

From this retreat of innocence and ſimplicity we aſcended about a mile, then burſt upon a charming view of Zuric, the lake, and environs;

and, gently deſcending, arrived at Zuric, quite enchanted with this ſhort expedition.

An expedition to the ſummit of the Lagerberg was no leſs agreeable than the former excurſion. I procured a guide and a horſe; but the weather proving very fine, I gave the horſe to my ſervant, and preferred walking acroſs the corn-fields, meadows, and thickets. The fields were enlivened by the numerous perſons employed in harveſt. In theſe parts, as well as the neighbouring countries, I obſerved with pleaſure, that the oxen, which are chiefly uſed for draught, are not yoked to the teams or ploughs, but harneſſed like horſes. This cuſtom enables thoſe animals to perform their labour with much more eaſe, and with greater effect. It has lately been introduced into ſome parts of England; and all unprejudiced farmers allow its ſuperior advantage, as the yoke is extremely galling; and four oxen harneſſed with collars will do as much work as ſix when yoked by the neck.

A few miles from Zuric, I paſſed through the village of Affholteren, near the church, which is prettily ſituated in the middle of a large field; ſkirted the ſmall lake of Kaſten, at a little diſtance from the picturesque ruins of Old-Regenſberg; and gently aſcended to New-Regenſberg, which ſtands on an elevation, at the foot of the Lagerberg.

The counts of Regenſberg were powerful barons during that period of anarchy and confuſion which diſtinguiſhed the 12th and 13th centuries. They were involved in conſtant wars, or rather deſultory ſkirmiſhes, with the town of Zuric, until they were finally repulſed by Rhodolph of Habſburgh, then captain-general of the troops of Zuric. On the extinction of the counts of Regenſberg, in the 14th century, their territory devolved to the Houſe of Auſtria, and in 1409, became ſubject to Zuric.

The preſent burgh is inhabited by about 200 perſons: who enjoy conſiderable privileges. They have their burgomaſter, and a council of ſix members, who form the civil court of juſtice, from whoſe deciſion an appeal lies directly to Zuric. The criminal juriſdiction belongs to the bailif, who reſides in the caſtle. This building was formerly of great ſtrength, and frequently defied the attacks of Zuric. The greateſt part of the preſent edifice was conſtructed in the laſt century; the only remains of the antient fortreſs being ſome ſtone walls and a round tower, which commands a diſtant proſpect. A well in the middle of the burgh, hollowed in the rock to the depth of 216 feet, which is now dry, furniſhed formerly water to the garriſon, during the obſtinate ſieges it maintained before the invention of gunpowder. Near this well is a copious fountain, which is ſupplied from a ſpring that riſes in the Lagerberg. The adjacent country is a moſt delightful intermixture of hill and dale. The rock on which Regenſberg is built, and which terminates in an abrupt precipice, forms the eaſtern extremity of that vaſt chain of mountains known by the general name of Jura, the branches of which are diſtinguiſhed by different appellations. The branch that riſes from this point is called the *Lagerberg*, to the ſummit of which I mounted on horſeback. I paſſed for ſome way through cultivated encloſures, and afterwards through foreſts of pine, fir, and beech, until I reached the higheſt point, on which ſtands a ſignal-houſe. From this point, which overlooks the whole country, I enjoyed one of the moſt extenſive and uninterrupted proſpects, and particularly the fineſt diſtant view of the Alps, which I had yet ſeen in Switzerland.

To the north, the eye expatiates freely over the wilds of the Black Foreſt; to the eaſt, beyond the confines of Bavaria; towards the weſt, traces the branches of the Jura extending in multifarious directions; to the ſouth, looks down upon the fertile and encloſed regions in the canton of Zuric, on the lake and its populous banks, and admires the vaſt expanſe of country ſwelling from plains to acclivities, from acclivities to hills, from hills to mountains, and terminating in thoſe ſtupendous alps,

"*Whoſe heads touch heaven.*"

This wonderful and ſublime proſpect detained me inſenſibly till the cloſe of the evening, when I deſcended, through the gloomy foreſts of pine, fir, and beech, that clothe the ſides of the Lagerberg; and, filled with thoſe pleaſing but melancholy reflections which the indeſcribable beauties of nature leave upon the mind, I rode ſlowly on, and did not arrive at Zuric till the gloom of night had overſpread the horizon.

LETTER II.

Winterthur—Caſtle of Kyburgh.

WINTERTHUR ſtands about twelve miles from Zuric; a town which, although ſituated in the canton, and under the protection of Zuric, yet retains its own laws, has its own magiſtrates, and is in a great meaſure independent. Winterthur was formerly governed by its own counts, who were probably a branch of the Kyburgh family, for both houſes bore the ſame coat of arms. In the 14th century it was poſſeſſed by Hartman, count of Kyburgh, who firſt ſurrounded it with walls; and upon his death it devolved to his nephew Rhodolph of Habſburgh. Rhodolph, afterwards emperor, conferred upon the inhabitants conſiderable privileges, for aſſiſting him in the war in which he was engaged with Ottocar, king of Bohemia. It continued ſubject to his deſcendants until 1424, when the inhabitants claimed the protection, and obtained the alliance, of Zuric. In 1467, the archduke Sigiſmond having ſold his rights to Zuric, that canton ſucceeded to his prerogatives.

A deputy from Zuric reſides at Winterthur, but for no other purpoſe than for collecting the toll, half of which belongs to Zuric.

The government of Winterthur is ariſtocratical. The ſupreme power, in all things not interfering with the claims of Zuric, reſides in the Great and Little Council. Theſe two tribunals united are final judges in all criminal procedures, and paſs ſentence of death without appeal. The Little Council is inveſted with the general adminiſtration of affairs, and determines civil cauſes in the firſt reſort. From their deciſion an appeal lies to the Great Council, and in all proceſſes between a ſtranger and a burgher, to the ſenate of Zuric.

Although the town is conſidered as independent, and only under the protection of Zuric, yet that canton claims the right of reſtricting the inhabitants from manufacturing ſilk, and from eſtabliſhing a printing-preſs, as interfering with the natives of Zuric. This reſtriction has occaſioned, and ſtill continues to excite, ill-will between the two towns, and has given riſe to much litigation. And though Zuric did not prohibit the manufactures of ſilk, yet by forbidding the peaſants of the canton from preparing and ſpinning the materials, this order amounted to a virtual prohibition.

At preſent a ſimilar diſpute is in agitation concerning the eſtabliſhment of a printing-preſs at Winterthur. The right will ſcarcely be controverted; but as the cauſe will be finally determined by Zuric, it remains a doubt whether that government will be ſufficiently diſintereſted to decide in favour of Winterthur againſt its own burghers.

In all other reſpects, excepting in theſe two articles of trade ſo profitable to Zuric, the commerce of Winterthur lies under no reſtraint. The principal manufactures are muſlins, printed cottons, and cloth. Some vitriol works are carried on with conſiderable ſucceſs.

The town is ſmall, and its inhabitants amount to about two thouſand; who are for the moſt part remarkably induſtrious. The ſchools in this petty ſtate are well endowed and regulated. The public library contains a ſmall collection of books, and a great number of Roman coins and medals, chiefly found at Ober-Winterthur; among the moſt rare I obſerved a Didius Julianus and a Pertinax. Ober-Winterthur, or Upper Winterthur, at preſent only a ſmall village near the town, in the high road leading to Frauenfield, is the ſite of the antient *Vitodurum*, a Roman ſtation, and the moſt conſiderable place in this neighbourhood. No other remains of its former conſequence ſubſiſt but the foundations of antient walls, and the numerous Roman coins and medals which have been diſcovered. The Roman road, which once traverſed the marſhes between Winterthur and Frauenfield, is no longer viſible, becauſe it forms the foundation of the preſent high-road.

The caſtle of Kyburgh, towering on the ſummit of an eminence which overlooks Winterthur and the adjacent diſtrict, is a pictureſque object; and remarkable in the hiſtory of this country, during the times of confuſion which preceded and followed the interregnum of the empire.

In the beginning of the 12th century, the counts of Kyburgh poſſeſſed the counties of Kyburgh, Lentzburgh, and Baden; and their territories were further increaſed by the acceſſion of Burgdorf and Thun, which fell to Ulric * in right of his wife Anne, ſiſter of Berchtold V. duke of Zæringen, upon the demiſe of the latter without iſſue male. Theſe domains devolved, in 1273, to Rhodolph count of Habſburgh, on the death of his uncle Hartman the elder, the laſt count of Kyburgh. This inheritance rendered Rhodolph one of the moſt powerful princes in theſe parts; and probably opened his way to the imperial throne. Before his deceaſe, the emperor ceded to his ſon Rhodolph and his heirs the county of Kyburgh, and his other dominions in Switzerland; and, on the demiſe of his ſon, confirmed this grant to his grandſon John, the ſame who aſſaſſinated his uncle, the emperor Albert †, and was called the Parricide.

Upon Albert's aſſaſſination, the ſons of that

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* Some authors aſſert that Werner, ſon of Ulric, was the huſband of Anne. Great confuſion reigned in the early hiſtory of the Counts of Kyburgh, until Fueſsli cleared it up. See article Kyburgh in Fueſsli's Erdbeſchreibung.

† See Letter 14.

emperor ſeized and kept poſſeſſion of Kyburgh and the other hereditary domains in Switzerland, and tranſmitted them to their poſterity. In 1424, the emperor Sigiſmond put under the ban of the empire Frederic duke of Auſtria, and granted for a ſum of money the county of Kyburgh to Zuric. In 1442 it was reſtored to the Houſe of Auſtria; but, in 1452, was finally ceded to Zuric by Sigiſmond, archduke of Auſtria, in order to liquidate a debt which he owed to the canton. From that time it has formed a bailliage in the canton of Zuric; but the title of Count of Kyburgh has been always retained by the Houſe of Auſtria, and is ſtill aſſumed by its preſent illuſtrious deſcendant Joſeph the Second.

The caſtle of Kyburgh, which ſtands in a romantic and wild ſituation, has been conſtructed at different periods. Part is antient, and not improbably the ſame as exiſted in the time of Rhodolph; although I could not diſcover a date anterior to 1424, the year in which it was granted to Zuric. In an apartment which was formerly a ſtable, I obſerved the portraits of all the bailifs who have reſided in the caſtle from the time of its ceſſion to Zuric. The bailif enjoys greater powers than are uſually delegated by an ariſtocratical government. In criminal proceedings, he is only required to conſult the jury of the diſtrict, though he is not bound by their opinion, and can inflict capital puniſhment without the neceſſity of referring the ſentence to be confirmed by Zuric.

LETTER 12.

Frauenfield — Of the Helvetic Confederacy — Diets.

FROM Winterthur I paſſed to Frauenfield, a ſmall town, or rather village, capital of Thurgau, containing ſcarcely a thouſand inhabitants; and only remarkable as being the place where, ſince 1712, the deputies of the Swiſs cantons aſſemble at the general diet.

This confederacy owes its origin to the treaty contracted in 1308, between Uri, Schweitz, and Underwalden, at the memorable revolution of 1308 *.

The acceſſion of Zuric, Berne, Lucerne, Zug, and Glarus, gave ſtrength and ſolidity to this union, and a century and a half elapſed before a

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* See Letter 25.

new member was admitted. At length, in 1501, Friburgh and Soleure being, after much difficulty, received into the league; upon that occaſion the eight antient cantons entered into a covenant, called the *Convention of Stantz*, by which the articles of union and mutual protection were finally ſettled *.

No change therein has been effected by the ſubſequent reception of the three other cantons, Baſle, Schaffhauſen, and Appenzel; they having ſubſcribed to the ſame terms which Friburgh and Soleure had accepted. Without entering, however, into a minute detail, I ſhall endeavour, in this letter, to lay before you a ſhort view of the Helvetic confederacy.

The code of public law, if I may ſo expreſs it, between the combined republics of Switzerland, is founded upon the treaty of † Sempach in

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* See Letter 26.

† This treaty, which regulates the articles of war, was contracted between the eight antient cantons, in conjunction with the republic of Soleure. It ordains, that no Swiſs ſoldier ſhall quit his ranks in time of action, even although he ſhould be dangerouſly wounded:

" Nous entendons auſſi que ſi quelqu'un s'eſtoit bleſſé en
" quelque façon que ce fuſt en combatant ou en aſſaillant,
" de ſorte qu'il ſeroit inutile pour ſe deffendre; il demeurera
" non obſtant auſſi avec les autres, juſques à ce que la ba-
" taille

in 1393; upon the convention of Stantz; and upon the treaty of peace concluded in 1712, at Arau, between the Proteſtant and Catholic cantons. It appears from theſe ſeveral treaties, which include or enlarge thoſe that preceded, that the Helvetic union is a perpetual *defenſive* alliance between the thirteen independent contracting powers, to protect each other by their united forces againſt all foreign enemies. Accordingly, if any member of the union ſhould be attacked, that particular canton has a right to demand ſuccours from the * whole confederate body; and in

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" taille ſoit expirée: et pour cela ne ſera eſtimé fuyard et " ne l'en faſchera-t-on en ſa perſonne ny en ſon bien aucu- " nement."

* The reſpectable author of the *Account of Switzerland*, has fallen into a miſtake in his deſcription of the Helvetic union; and his error has been adopted by the Abbè Mably, in his *Droit Public de l'Europe*; by the compilers of the *Encyclopédie*; and by ſeveral other writers of diſtinction.

After having given a deſcription of the Helvetic union, he concludes the relation as follows:

" So far are they (the thirteen cantons) from making one " body or one commonwealth, that only the three old can- " tons are directly allied with every one of the other twelve. " There is indeed ſuch a connection eſtabliſhed between " them, that, in caſe any one canton were attacked, all the " other twelve would be obliged to march to its ſuccour; but " it in caſe of war, the ſeveral forces to be ſupplied by each canton are preciſely ſpecified. It appears, however, from the ſtipulations to which the five cantons agreed, that they do not, in every reſpect, enjoy equal prerogatives with the eight antient cantons. For, the latter reſerved to themſelves a right, if the queſtion for declaring war againſt any foreign ſtate ſhould be *unanimouſly* carried in their aſſembly, to require the aſſiſtance of the five

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« it would be by virtue of the relation, that two cantons may « have to a third, and not of any direct alliance ſubſiſting « between every one of them. As for example: of the « eight old cantons, Lucerne has a right of calling but five « to its ſuccour, in caſe of attack; but then ſome of thoſe « five have a right of calling others, with whom they are « allied, though Lucerne be not; ſo that at laſt all muſt « march by virtue of particular alliances, and not of any « general one amongſt them all."

The above-cited account of the Helvetic union, would better have ſuited the league of the eight cantons before the convention of Stantz; when the confederate ſtates were not ſo abſolutely and directly united together as they are at preſent; and their alliance did not perhaps totally exclude every treaty of the ſame kind with other powers. It was only by the articles of that celebrated convention, and the alliance of the eight cantons with Friburgh and Soleure, that the union became abſolutely fixed and general. It muſt be confeſſed, however, that ſeveral Swiſs hiſtorians have given the ſame idea of the Helvetic union as that above-mentioned: and that even now, authors differ conſiderably upon ſome important articles of the league.

other cantons, without aſſigning the motive: whereas the former, cannot commence hoſtilities without the conſent of the confederates; and if the enemy ſhould be willing to enter into a negociation concerning the matter in diſpute, it muſt be referred to the arbitration of the eight antient cantons. It is further ſtipulated, that if a rupture ſhould enſue between the eight cantons, the five are to obſerve a ſtrict neutrality.

The next eſſential object of the league, is to preſerve general peace and good order. It is therefore covenanted, that all public diſputes ſhall be finally ſettled between the contending parties in an amicable manner; and for this purpoſe particular judges and arbiters are appointed, who ſhall be empowered to compoſe the diſſenſions that may happen to ariſe. To this is added, a reciprocal guarantee of the forms of government eſtabliſhed in the reſpective commonwealths: for, in order to prevent internal factions, and revolts in any of the allied cantons, it was agreed by the convention of Stantz, that, in caſe of rebellion, the magiſtracy of ſuch canton ſhould be aſſiſted by the forces of the others. Accordingly, the hiſtory of Switzerland affords many inſtances of protection and aſſiſtance reciprocally given between the confederates, in defence and ſupport of the reſpective governments.

No ſeparate engagement, which any of the cantons may conclude, can be valid, if inconſiſtent with the fundamental articles of this general union: or in other words, the reciprocal contract between the members of the league, ſuperſedes every other ſpecies of public obligation. With the foregoing exceptions, the ſeveral combined ſtates are independent of each other: they may form alliances with any power, or reject the ſame, although all the others have acceded to it*; may grant auxiliary troops to foreign princes; may prohibit the money of the other cantons from being current within their own territories; may impoſe taxes; and, in ſhort, perform every other act of abſolute ſovereignty.

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* The five cantons which agreed not to conclude any treaty without the conſent of the eight, are neceſſarily excluded from this power, together with thoſe particular cantons, which have bound themſelves by private treaties not to contract any foreign alliance, without the reciprocal conſent of the others; as for inſtance, Uri, Schweitz, and Underwalden, by the alliance at Brunnen in 1315. But this depends upon particular treaties, and has no relation to the general union. In fact, every canton is reſtrained by the general articles of the Helvetic union: but, conforming to thoſe, no one republic is in any other inſtance controuled by the reſolutions of the majority among the confederate cantons.

The public affairs of the Helvetic body and their allies are diſcuſſed and determined in the ſeveral diets: and theſe are,

1. General diets; or general aſſemblies of the thirteen cantons, and of their allies.

2. Particular diets; as thoſe of the eight antient cantons; thoſe of the Proteſtant cantons, with the deputies of the Proteſtants of Glarus and Appenzel, of the towns of St. Gallen, Bienne, and Mulhauſen, called the *evangelical conferentes*; thoſe of the Roman Catholic cantons, with the deputies of the Catholics of Glarus and Appenzel, of the abbot of St. Gallen, and of the republic of the Vallais, called the *golden alliance*: as alſo the diets of particular cantons, which, beſide being members of the general confederacy, have diſtinct and ſeparate treaties with each other.

The ordinary meetings of the *general* diet are held once a year, and continue ſitting one month; the extraordinary aſſemblies are ſummoned upon particular occaſions. It is principally convened in order to deliberate upon the beſt meaſures for the ſecurity of the Helvetic body. The canton of Zuric appoints the time and place of meeting; and convenes the deputies by a circular letter. The deputy of Zuric alſo preſides, unleſs the diet is held in the territory of any other canton; in that caſe, the deputy of that canton is preſident.

This diet formerly met at Baden; but ſince the concluſion of the civil war in 1712, between Zuric and Berne on one ſide, and Lucerne, Uri, Schweitz, Underwalden, and Zug, on the other, (when the five latter renounced the co-regency of Baden) it has been aſſembled at Frauenfield in Thurgau. Each canton ſends as many deputies as it thinks proper.

It would be deſcending into a tedious detail, were I to enter into the particular connections of the ſeveral allies, either with the whole Helvetic body, or with ſome of the cantons; and the different nature of theſe reſpective alliances. Suffer me only to remark, that the allies may be divided into *aſſociate*, and *confederate* ſtates: of the former, are the abbot and town of St. Gallen, Bienne, and Mulhauſen; of the latter, are the Griſons, the republic of the Vallais, Geneva, Neuchatel, and the biſhop of Baſle.

The ſtates thus compriſed under the general denomination of aſſociates and confederates, enjoy, by virtue of this union, a total independence on all foreign dominion; and partake of all the privileges and immunities granted to the Swiſs in other countries. And notwithſtanding ſome of theſe ſtates are allied only with particular cantons;

tons; yet if any of them ſhould be attacked, thoſe cantons with whom they are in treaty would not only ſupply them with ſuccours, but would alſo require the joint aſſiſtance of the remaining cantons: if therefore any part of the whole body ſhould be invaded, all the other members would unite in its defence, either as immediate guarantees, or as auxiliaries of the actual guarantees.

LETTER 13.

Route by Water from Zuric to Baden—Bridge of Wettingen—Baden—Caſtle of Hapſburgh.

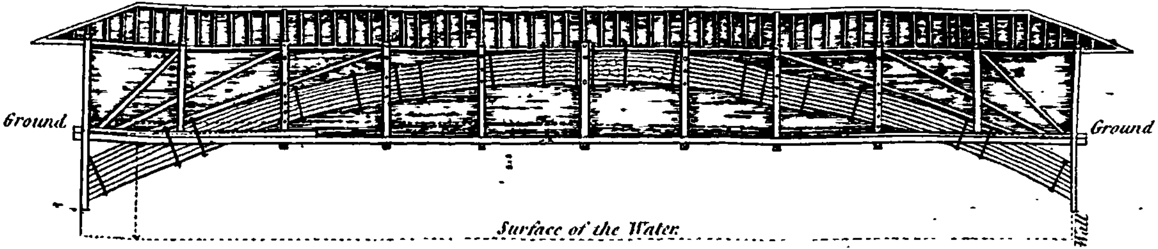
INSTEAD of following the uſual route by land from Zuric to Baſle, we proceeded the greateſt part of the way by water. We embarked about two in the afternoon on the Limmat. The navigation of that river has been deſcribed as extremely hazardous, yet it is only dangerous upon the melting of the ſnow, or after violent rains, when in ſeveral places the rocks and ſhoals are covered with water. At other times there is no danger, provided the watermen are ſober and experienced.

Our boat was flat-bottomed and long, and was rowed, or rather ſteered by three watermen, who uſed their oars merely to direct the veſſel; the ſtream being ſufficiently rapid to carry us along at the rate of ſix, eight, and ſometimes even ten miles in the hour. The water is beautifully tranſparent; and its ſurface was occaſionally raiſed and agitated with high waves by a wind oppoſite to the current. The borders of the Limmat are at firſt ſomewhat flat, afterwards gently riſe into hills clothed with paſture and wood, or divided into vineyards; are laſtly quite perpendicular, and fringed to the water's edge with hanging trees.

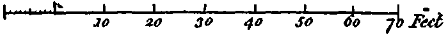
About a mile from Baden, where the Limmat flows with the greateſt rapidity, we ſhot under the bridge of Wettingen with ſuch velocity, that in the moment of admiring its bold projection on one ſide, I imperceptibly found myſelf on the other. This beautiful piece of mechaniſm is a wooden bridge, two hundred and forty feet in length, and ſuſpended above twenty feet from the ſurface of the water: it was the laſt work of Grubenman, the ſelf-taught architect, whom I mentioned in a former letter, and is far ſuperior in elegance to that of Schaffhauſen.

We landed at Baden, and walked to Hapſburgh, Schintznach, Konigsfelden, and Windiſh; of

Geometrical Elevation of the Timber Bridge, at Wettingen from actual measurements.


Ground
Ground
Surface of the Water.
Wall

A. Floor of Bridge, raised 16 inches higher in the middle and gradually diminishing towards each end as shewn by the dotted lines.


10
20
30
40
50
60
70 Feet

John Soane del.

Published as the Act directs Jan.ʸ 26 1789, by T. Cadell, Strand.

of which places I ſhall give you a ſhort deſcription.

Baden derives its name from the neighbouring warm baths, which are mentioned by the antients under the names of *Aquæ* and *Thermæ Helveticæ*.

Baden was a Roman fortreſs, erected to curb the *Allemanni* or Germans; and was raſed to the ground, when the Helvetians, who ſupported Otho, were routed by Cæcina, general to Vitellius. Being rebuilt, it was taken by the Germans; fell afterwards under the dominion of the Franks; was, in the tenth century, incorporated in the German empire; became ſucceſſively ſubject to the dukes of Zæringen, to the counts of Kyburgh, and to Rhodolph of Hapſburgh. In 1418, when his deſcendant Frederic, duke of Auſtria, was put under the ban of the empire, the canton of Zuric took poſſeſſion of the town and county; and, having purchaſed them from the emperor Sigiſmond, admitted to a joint ſhare in the ſovereignty, Lucerne, Uri, Schweitz, Underwalden, and Zug, Berne in 1426, and Uri in 1445.

Baden continued a bailliage of theſe eight cantons until the year 1712, when the civil war breaking out between the Proteſtant and Catholic cantons, it was beſieged and taken by the troops of

Zuric and Berne; and at the peace of Arau was ceded to thoſe two cantons and Glarus, which, on account of its neutrality, preſerved its right of joint-ſovereignty. Zuric and Berne did not, however, prove their diſintereſtedneſs, when, not content with finally ſettling the religious diſputes in favour of the Proteſtants, they exacted from the Catholic cantons the ceſſion of Baden, contrary to the convention of Stantz, which forms the baſis of the Helvetic conſtitution. The umbrage conceived by the Catholic cantons at this ſtep, was the principal inducement to conclude a perpetual alliance with France in 1715, and to throw themſelves under the protection of that power. And this ſeparate league has not been annulled by the general treaty which Louis XVI. contracted with the thirteen cantons in 1776.

Until 1712, the diet of the thirteen cantons aſſembled at Baden; but has been ſince transferred to Frauenfield. The three cantons alternately appoint a bailif, who reſides in the caſtle.

The inhabitants elect their own magiſtrates, and have their own judicial courts. In civil proceedings, an appeal lies to the bailif, and from his deciſion to the ſyndicate, compoſed of the deputies of the three cantons, and in the laſt reſort to the three cantons themſelves. In penal cauſes, the criminal court condemns, and the bailif enjoys the power of pardoning, or mitigating the ſentence. The county or bailliage contains about 24,000 ſouls.

From Baden we walked through an agreeable and well-wooded country for ſome way along the ſide of the Limmat, whoſe ſteep banks are covered with vines to the edge of the water; and in about two hours croſſed the Reuſs into the canton of Berne. Having paſſed through a plain, we arrived at the baths of Schintznach, a place remarkable for its agreeable poſition on the banks of the Aar, and its tepid mineral waters. It is alſo well known as being the firſt place where the Helvetic ſociety aſſembled. This ſociety, formed by ſome of the moſt learned men in Switzerland, both of the Catholic and Reformed religion, firſt helped to extend the ſpirit of toleration, and to leſſen that antipathy which ſubſiſted between the members of the two perſuaſions. Its publications have tended to promote a general zeal for the diffuſion of polite literature. The meeting of this liberal ſociety is now transferred to Olten, a ſmall town in the canton of Soleure.

Near Schintznach ſtands, on a lofty eminence, the ruins of the caſtle of Hapſburgh, to which we aſcended through a wood of beech, that ſeemed almoſt coeval with the date of the caſtle itſelf. Theſe ruins conſiſt of an antient tower, conſtructed with maſſy ſtones, in a rude ſtyle of architecture, and part of a ſmall building of much later date.

It was erected in the beginning of the eleventh century, by Werner, biſhop of Straſburgh, came to his brothers Radebot and Latzelin, and devolved to their deſcendants. Otho, grandſon of Radebot, was probably the firſt perſon upon record who ſtyled himſelf Count of Hapſburgh, and it continued to be the principal title by which his poſterity was diſtinguiſhed, until it was loſt in a greater dignity, when Rhodolph of Hapſburgh was elevated to the imperial throne. His ſucceſſors granted the caſtle and its dependencies as a fief, firſt to the lords of Wildeck, and afterwards to the lord of Wolen: in 1415 it was occupied by Berne, during the conteſt between the emperor Sigiſmond and Frederic of Auſtria, and given to the family of Segeſern of Bruneck. In 1469, it was ſold to the convent of Konigſfelden; on the diſſolution of that monaſtery, at the reformation, was ſeculariſed, and ſeized by government; has gradually gone to decay; and is now inhabited by a peaſant's family.

This caſtle commands an unbounded view over hills and dales, plains and foreſts, rivers and lakes, towns and villages, mountains and alps, emblem of that extent of power to which the talents of *one man*, who derived his title from this caſtle, raiſed himſelf and his deſcendants. You will readily perceive I allude to Rhodolph of Hapſburgh, who, from a ſimple baron of Switzerland, became emperor, and founded the Houſe of Auſtria.

Rhodolph was born in 1218. After ſignalizing his youth in a conſtant ſcene of warfare and contention, he was, in 1273, unexpectedly raiſed to the dignity of emperor, and conferred honour on that exalted ſtation, no leſs by his political ſagacity than by his military proweſs. He died in 1291, after a long and glorious reign, and in the ſeventy-third year of his age.

Impreſſed with theſe ideas, as I conſidered, on the very ſpot, the origin of the Houſe of Hapſburgh, and its gradual progreſs towards that height of power which it has ſince attained under the more diſtinguiſhed appellation of the Houſe of Auſtria; I could not but compare it to a ſmall rill in the Alps, whoſe ſource is uncertain; which, having received or joined numberleſs ſtreams, forms no inconſiderable river. Flowing through Switzerland, ſtill almoſt unknown to its neighbours, it no ſooner enters Germany, than it loſes its name by its junction with the Danube; and, having collected the tribute of numberleſs rivers, rolls, with its accumulated and ſtill increaſing waters, through an immenſe extent of country, and falls by a hundred mouths into the Euxine Sea;

——— et pare
Che guerra porta e non tributo al mare *.

Rhodolph, during his reſidence in this caſtle, would not have given credit to a perſon endowed with the ſpirit of prophecy, who ſhould have informed him, that, in little more than a century, a few ſmall republics would drive his deſcendants from their hereditary dominions in Switzerland; and erect upon their ruins, and on the baſis of equal liberty, a formidable confederacy, which would be courted by the moſt powerful ſovereigns. Still leſs perhaps would he have believed, that he himſelf ſhould poſſeſs the imperial throne, and found the Houſe of Auſtria; that his lineal deſcendants ſhould rule over Germany, Hungary, Bohemia, Auſtria, Spain, Burgundy, the Low Countries, Milan, Naples, and Sicily, and extend their dominion and influence from the Euxine to a New World beyond the Atlantic.

* Taſſo.

LETTER 14.

Konigsfelden—Windiſh—Voyage down the Rhine.

HAVING ſatisfied our curioſity at the caſtle of Hapſburgh *, that cradle of the Houſe of Auſtria, which ſtill confers a title on Joſeph II. we deſcended into the plain of Konigſfelden, to a convent of the ſame name, built by Elizabeth, on the ſpot where her huſband Albert was aſſaſſinated. The occaſion of this aſſaſſination, and the circumſtances attending it, were as follow. Albert, as guardian to his nephew John of Hapſburgh, had taken poſſeſſion of his hereditary dominions in Switzerland, and refuſed, under various pretences, to deliver them up to him. At length, wearied with repeated and fruitleſs ſolicitations, John entered into a conſpiracy againſt the emperor, with Rhodolph de Warth, Ulric de Palme, Walther de Eſchenbach, and Conrad de Tagerfeld.

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* There is alſo a caſtle of Hapſburgh, ſituated near the lake of Lucerne, which I viſited in 1779. Some authors have erroneouſly aſſerted, that this was the caſtle from which the counts derived their titles. But Hergot has refuted this opinion; and unqueſtionably proved that honour to be due to the caſtle of Hapſburgh which I have deſcribed in the preceding letter. See Hergot, Gen. Dipl. Augſ. Domus Habſb.

The emperor dined at Baden, in his way to Rheinfelden, a town in the circle of Suabia, where the empreſs his conſort had collected a conſiderable body of troops, with which he propoſed invading the three cantons of Uri, Schweitz, and Underwalden, which had revolted againſt him. Contemporary hiſtorians, who have recorded the minuteſt circumſtances in this whole tranſaction, relate, that Albert was in high ſpirits during the repaſt; and that, his nephew again entreating to be put into poſſeſſion of his hereditary dominions, the emperor, with an air of banter, placed a garland of flowers upon his head, adding, at the ſame time, "This will be "more ſuitable to you, for the preſent, than the "cares of a troubleſome government." This taunt had ſuch an effect upon the young prince, that he burſt into tears, flung away the flowers, and could not be prevailed upon to ſit down to table.

After dinner, Albert continued his journey on horſeback, accompanied by his ſon Leopold, the conſpirators, and his uſual attendants; and came near the town of Windiſh, in the canton of Berne, to the Reuſs, over which river paſſengers were uſually ferried upon a raft. The conſpirators paſſed over firſt, and were followed by Albert: as he was riding gently on, expecting his ſon Leopold, and the remainder of his ſuite, he was ſuddenly beſet by the aſſaſſins. One of them ſeizing his horſe's bridle, John of Hapſburgh reproached him for his injuſtice in detaining his dominions; and ſtruck him on the neck with his ſword: Rhodolph de Warth wounded him in the ſide; and Ulric de Palme clove his head with a ſabre. In this condition, they left him expiring upon the ground.

This aſſaſſination was committed the firſt of May 1308, in the open day, and in the ſight of his ſon Leopold, and the reſt of his court, who had not as yet paſſed the river; and who, though witneſſes to the murder, yet could not aſſiſt the emperor. The field lies between the Aar and the Reuſs, not far from the junction of thoſe two rivers; and the very ſpot, where he was maſſacred, is marked by a convent, erected by his wife Elizabeth and his daughter Agnes: the place was called *Konigsfelden*, or King'sfield; a name it retains to this day. The remains of the emperor were buried in the convent of Witterling, from whence they were afterwards tranſported to Spire, and there interred.

The aſſaſſins eſcaped into the cantons of Uri, Schweitz, and Underwalden, expecting to find a ſure aſylum in a nation, which Albert was preparing to invade. But the generous natives, deteſting a crime of ſo atrocious a nature, although committed upon the perſon of their greateſt and moſt formidable enemy, refuſed to protect the murderers. D'Eſchenbach concealed himſelf in the diſguiſe of a common labourer during thirty years, nor was his rank diſcovered till he confeſſed it upon his death-bed; De Palme, deſtitute of common neceſſaries, died in extreme poverty; De Warth, tied to a horſe's tail, like a common malefactor, and dragged to the place of execution, was broken upon the wheel. John of Hapſburgh, commonly known by the appellation of *parricide*, from this aſſaſſination, did not reap the expected benefits of the crime; for, by order of the emperor Henry the Seventh, he retired into a monaſtery of Auguſtine friars, where he died in 1313.

The widow of Albert turned her whole thoughts towards revenging the death of her huſband; and in this purſuit involved the innocent as well as the guilty; all, who had the ſmalleſt connection with the aſſaſſins, being ſacrificed with undiſtinguiſhed cruelty to the manes of the emperor. Mean while the three cantons were, for a few years, left to the undiſturbed enjoyment of their liberties, and to ſtrengthen themſelves againſt any future attack; and thus they innocently reaped the ſole advantage which was derived from this aſſaſſination.

The convent or abbey of Konigsfelden comprized, within its extenſive precincts, a nunnery of the order of St. Clare, and a monaſtery of monks of the order of minorites, ſeparated from each other by a wall. It was richly endowed by Elizabeth, her five ſons, and her daughter Agnes queen of Hungary, who aſſumed the habit of a nun, and here paſſed the remainder of her days. At the reformation the abbey was ſecularized, and its lands appropriated by government: part of the building became the reſidence of the bailif, part was converted into an hoſpital, and part was ſuffered to fall to ruin.

Many of the cells, formerly occupied by the nuns, ſtill exiſt in their original ſtate; and one, in particular, is diſtinguiſhed as the habitation in which queen Agnes lived and died.

The chapel ſtill remains entire, but is no longer uſed for divine ſervice. The glaſs windows are beautifully coloured, and painted with various hiſtories of the Old Teſtament; with the portraits of Elizabeth and Agnes, of the emperor Albert, and his ſons. On the walls alſo are coarſely repreſented the figures of Leopold duke of Auſtria, and the principal nobles who periſhed at the battle of Sempach. Elizabeth and Agnes, and ſeveral princes and princeſſes of the Houſe of Auſtria, were buried in this chapel; but their bones were a few years ago removed to the abbey of St. Blaiſe, in the Black Foreſt, where they were depoſited with great pomp, and magnificent ſepulchres erected to their memory.

Near Konigsfelden is the ſmall village of Windiſh, ſtanding at the conflux of the Aar and the Reuſs, and ſuppoſed by antiquarians to occupy the ſite of *Vindoniſſa*, a Roman fortreſs mentioned by Tacitus. In traverſing the place I did not obſerve the leaſt ſigns of any antiquities; but various lapidary inſcriptions, mile-ſtones, ſepulchral urns, medals, coins, and gems, which have been found in great abundance, ſufficiently prove, that it muſt have been the ſtation of a large Roman colony. The reader, who is inclined to reflect on the viciſſitudes of human poſſeſſions, will recollect with pleaſure the following quotation, which ſo happily relates to the preſent ſubject: "Within the antient walls of Vindoniſſa, the caſtle of "Hapſburgh, the abbey of Konigsfeld, and the "town of Bruck, have ſucceſſively ariſen. The "philoſophic traveller may compare the monu"ments of Roman conqueſt, of feudal or Auſ-

"trian tyranny, of monkiſh ſuperſtition, and of "induſtrious freedom. If he be truly a philo- "ſopher, he will applaud the merit and happi- "neſs of his own time *."

Early the next morning we embarked on the Aar, which, though here a trifling ſtream, yet, being conſiderably ſwelled by the tribute of waters from the Reuſs and the Limmat, ſoon becomes a conſiderable river. Its banks are agreeably enlivened with meadows and woods, and ſpotted occaſionally with villages, caſtles, and ruins, hanging on the water's edge. Having made a ſmall turn, it falls by a ſtrait channel into the Rhine, vying in ſize and rapidity with the great river in which it loſes its name: its waters, which are of a ſilvery hue, are for a long way diſtinguiſhed from thoſe of the Rhine; which, being tranſparent, and of a ſea-green colour, ſeem to diſdain the union.

The banks of the Rhine are far ſuperior in wildneſs and beauty to thoſe of the Aar, in many parts riſing perpendicularly, yet feathered with wood; in others ſloping in gentle declivities, richly bordered with vines, foreſt, and paſtures;

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* Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, vol. iii. p. 563.

and exhibiting a continual ſucceſſion of towns and villages. The rapid ſtream carried us above eighteen miles in three hours, and we diſembarked at Lauffenburgh, where the Rhine forms a ſmall cataract, which though greatly inferior to the fall of the ſame river near Schaffhauſen, yet deſerves to be viſited by travellers for the beauties of the ſcenery. As I ſtood upon the crags of the northern ſhore, the principal objects were, a high bridge, partly open and partly covered, ſupported by three lofty ſtone piers; on the ſouth a row of houſes, with an old ruined caſtle on the ſummit, boldly overhanging the water; a perſpective of woods and meadows under the arcades of the bridge; and the river daſhing over its craggy bed, in a ſloping cataract, until it loſes itſelf ſuddenly among the rocks which cloſe the view.

About half a mile below this fall we re-embarked, and found the waters in many parts more agitated than thoſe of the Limmat; particularly near Rheinfelden, where they ruſh with ſuch increaſing velocity, that they were troubled like the waves of the ſea, and, beating againſt the boat, turned it obliquely by their violence. Here we were hurried along with ſuch rapidity, that though I had a pencil in my hand, I had no time for obſervation, much leſs for deſcription; I could only catch a general glance of the romantic ſcenery, as we paſſed under a picturesque bridge of ſeveral arches, ſuſpended high above the ſurface of the river, and joined to a ſteep rock, on which towered ſome majeſtic ruins. In many parts, and for a conſiderable way, our veſſel paſſed within a few inches of the ſhelving rocks, and was only prevented from ſtriking againſt them by the dexterity of the pilot.

As we approached Baſle the ſtream became gradually leſs rapid; and we diſembarked highly delighted with our expedition.

LETTER 15.

The Town of Baſle—Eraſmus—Library—Holbein.

I Arrived at Baſle, as I ſuppoſed, about twelve at noon; but was much ſurprized to find, that all the clocks in the town actually ſtruck one: and, on inquiry, I was informed, that they conſtantly go an hour faſter than the real time. Different reaſons have been aſſigned for this ſingularity: ſome aſſert, that it was firſt practiſed during the council of Baſle, in order to aſſemble, at an earlier hour, the cardinals and biſhops, who being very lazy and indolent, always arrived too late. Others maintain, that a conſpiracy being formed to aſſaſſinate the magiſtrates at midnight; one of the burgomaſters, who had notice of the deſign, advanced the town-clock an hour; by which means the conſpirators, imagining they had miſſed the appointed time, retired; and that the clocks are ſtill kept in the ſame advanced ſtate, as a perpetual memorial of this happy deliverance. But there is a third reaſon given for this ſtrange cuſtom, which ſeems the moſt probable. It is well known that the choirs of cathedrals are conſtructed towards the eaſt: that of Baſle declines ſomewhat from this direction; and the ſun-dial, which is placed upon the outſide of the choir, and by which the town-clock is always regulated, partakes of this declination; a circumſtance which, according to the celebrated Bernoulli, occaſions a variation from the true time of above five and forty minutes.

The inhabitants of Baſle are ſtill ſo ſtrongly attached to this whimſical cuſtom, that, although it has been often propoſed in the ſovereign council to regulate their clocks properly, yet the motion has been invariably rejected; and the people would ſuſpect that their liberties were invaded, if their clocks were to agree with thoſe of the reſt of Europe. A few years ſince, ſeveral leading men of the town determined to alter the hand of the ſun-dial half a minute a day, until the ſhadow ſhould imperceptibly point to the true hour. This expedient was accordingly practiſed, and the clock had already loſt near three quarters of an hour, when an accident diſcovered the deſign: the magiſtrates were accordingly compelled to place the hand of the ſun-dial in its former poſition, and to regulate the hours by it as uſual. Indeed, long-eſtabliſhed cuſtoms, however indifferent or ridiculous, are apt to make ſo ſtrong an impreſſion upon vulgar minds, as to become ſometimes dangerous, and always difficult to be aboliſhed; eſpecially among a people, like thoſe of this country, who are averſe to any change, even in the minuteſt articles. I need not remind you, how long it was before we could be perſuaded in England, to reckon our years according to the general mode of computation received by the reſt of Europe.

Baſle is beautifully ſituated upon the banks of the Rhine, near the point where that river, which here becomes very broad, deep, and rapid, after flowing for ſome way from eaſt to weſt, turns ſuddenly to the north. It conſiſts of two towns joined together by a long bridge; the *large* town lies on the ſide of Switzerland, and the *ſmall* town on the oppoſite banks of the river. It ſtands very favourably for commerce; an advantage which the inhabitants have by no means neglected: for they have eſtabliſhed a great variety of manufactures, particularly of ribbands and cottons; and an extenſive trade is carried on by the principal merchants.

The cathedral is an elegant gothic building, but ſtrangely disfigured by a daubing of roſe-coloured paint ſpread over the whole edifice. This cathedral contains the aſhes of Gertrude Anne counteſs of Hohenburgh, and wiſe of the emperor Rhodolph I. She died at Vienna, in 1281, and her body was conveyed to Baſle. Her two chriſtian names gave riſe to much confuſion, and led many hiſtorians to conclude that Gertrude and Anne were two different perſonages, and ſucceſſive wives of that emperor; while others ridiculouſly ſuppoſed that both were married to him at the ſame time: nor were theſe erroneous opinions confuted, and the controverſy finally ſettled, till Hergot, the laborious genealogiſt * of the Houſe of Auſtria, proved, from the moſt unqueſtionable authorities of antient diplomes, the identity of this divided perſonage;

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* See Hergottii Geneal. Diplom. Dom. Auſt. vol. i. p. 125.

and that the miſtake aroſe from her being uniformly ſtyled Gertrude before her coronation, and Anne after the performance of that ceremony. She bore to her huſband fourteen children; and though the mother of ſo large a family, yet ſuch was her extreme ſenſibility, that the grief which ſhe ſuffered at the departure of her daughter Clementina to Naples, on her marriage with Charles Martel, hurried the afflicted parent to her grave.

In the ſame church are depoſited, under a marble tomb, the venerable remains of the great Eraſmus. That diſtinguiſhed writer joined to ſuperior learning, and a peculiar elegance of ſtyle, the keeneſt wit, which he pointed, not only againſt the vices and ignorance of the monks, but the general corruptions and diſorders of the Roman church. He was indeed the forerunner of Luther, in his firſt attacks upon the Catholics, reſpecting the ſale of indulgences: but afterwards, when the controverſy appeared more ſerious, and an open breach with the church of Rome ſeemed inevitable; he condemned the proceedings of that bold reformer. He conſidered them, indeed, as altogether unwarrantable; and, although he had himſelf cenſured and expoſed the corruptions that infected the Catholic religion; yet he zealouſly inculcated ſubmiſſive obedience to the decrees of what he called the "univerſal church." Agreeably to theſe ſentiments, he adviſed the proteſtants to endeavour at obtaining, by mild and patient meaſures, what they might indiſcreetly loſe by a warmer and more violent oppoſition.

Such temperate counſels were ill ſuited to the daring and impetuous ſpirit of Luther. Accordingly, while Eraſmus was acting the part of a mediator, and endeavouring to moderate and allay the flame on each ſide, he drew upon himſelf the diſpleaſure of both parties: and, in alluſion to this temporiſing conduct, one of his adverſaries applied to him, not unaptly, that line in Virgil,

Terras inter cælumque volabat.

The impartial truth ſeems to be, that he was by no means diſpoſed to become a martyr in the cauſe; the natural timidity of his temper, a too great deference to perſons of ſuperior rank and power, and perhaps alſo the fear of loſing his penſions, probably induced him to take a decided part againſt the reformers, and condemn their ſeparation from the church of Rome.

But it would be uncandid to impute his conduct wholly to ſelfiſh conſiderations: ſomething may fairly be aſcribed to the powerful impreſſions of early prejudices; and ſomething to that rooted love of peace and ſtudious tranquillity, which ſeems to have been the governing principles of all his actions. But, whatever imperfections may be diſcovered in ſome particular parts of his character, his memory muſt ever be revered by every friend of genius, learning, and moderation. Livelineſs of imagination, depth and variety of erudition, together with great ſagacity of judgment, were in him eminently united. He infuſed a ſpirit of elegance even into theological controverſies; and contributed to diſencumber literature from that ſcholaſtic jargon with which it was diſgraced. Eraſmus reflected much honour upon this town, by chooſing it as the favourite place of his reſidence, and publiſhing from hence the greateſt part of his valuable works. In the public library are preſerved, with great veneration, ſeveral of his letters, and his laſt teſtament, written with his own hand; as alſo his hanger and ſeal.

The univerſity of Baſle was formerly eminent in the literary hiſtory of Europe. Who, in the leaſt converſant in letters, is unacquainted with the celebrated names of Oecolampadius, Amerbach, the three Bauhins, Grynæus, Buxtorf, Wetſtein, Iſelin, the Bernoullis, and Euler. If it has fallen from its priſtine ſtate of renown, its decline muſt be principally imputed to the caſual method of electing the profeſſors; but it ſtill boaſts ſeveral members who do honour to their native town by their learning and abilities.

The public library contains a ſmall collection of books, chiefly remarkable for ſeveral rare and valuable editions; particularly of thoſe printed in the fifteenth century. The moſt curious manuſcripts are numerous letters of the firſt reformers, and of other learned men in the fifteenth, ſixteenth, and ſeventeenth centuries; and an account of the proceedings at the council of Baſle. The minutes of that council were taken by John of Segovia; and are ſuppoſed to be the ſame which are preſerved either in the library, or in the archives of the town: the former is written on paper, the latter on parchment. A queſtion has ariſen which of theſe two is the original. Some conclude in favour of that in the archives, on account of the many falſe readings and miſtakes in the other, which are plainly the faults of a copyiſt. Others give the preference to that in the library, becauſe it is written in different hands, and with different ink, which ſeem to imply that it was noted down at various intervals, according as the acts of the council were paſſed; whereas that in the archives, being penned on parchment,

ment, in the ſame hand, and with the ſame ink, was probably copied from the original minutes; for who, it is urged, would take minutes on parchment? A third opinion, ſtill more probable, is, that neither of theſe are the original. Several paſſages are wanting in both; which omiſſion may have proceeded from the tranſcriber's not being able to read every part of the original. It is probable alſo that John of Segovia took away the minutes, and depoſited them at Rome; and that one of theſe manuſcripts was the copy tranſcribed by order of the council; of theſe, the manuſcript on parchment appears to be the moſt authentic.

In a ſuite of rooms belonging to this library, is a cabinet of petrifactions, collected in the canton of Baſle by the Rev. Mr. Annoni; ſome antient medals and gems; a few antiquities found at Augſt; a large number of prints; and ſome fine drawings and paintings, conſiſting chiefly of originals by Holbein, who was a native of this town. Theſe pictures are, moſt of them, in the higheſt preſervation: the connoiſſeur can here trace all the different manners of Holbein, and compare the productions of his youth with thoſe of his maturer age. A few are here preſerved, which he painted before he had reached his ſixteenth year; and one extremely curious, which he drew upon a ſign for a writing-maſter. The portraits of himſelf, his wife, and children, in the ſame group, are much admired for nature and ſimplicity of expreſſion. The moſt valuable of theſe paintings is an altar-piece, in eight compartments, which repreſents the paſſion of our Saviour: a performance, in which this admirable artiſt has carried to the higheſt perfection that ſingular brilliancy of colouring ſo peculiar to moſt of his compoſitions. I was much ſtruck with a profile of his friend and patron Eraſmus, writing his commentary upon St. Matthew: there is a ſpirit and animation in the countenance, finely expreſſive of the great author's ſagacious and penetrating talents.

Among the works of Holbein, that diſcover the livelineſs of his fancy, muſt be mentioned the ſketches which he drew, on peruſing the Eulogium of Folly by Eraſmus, on the margin of that work, which he received as a preſent from the author. This curious volume is preſerved in the library; and has been lately publiſhed by Mr. Haas, in French, Latin, and German, with fac-ſimiles of the original deſigns, engraved on wood.

The dance of death, in the church-yard of the predicants of the ſuburbs of St. John, is frequently ſhewn to ſtrangers as being of Holbein's pencil. It is painted in oil-colours upon a wall which encloſes the burial-ground: but, as it has ſeveral times been retouched, no traces are diſcoverable of that great maſter's hand. In fact, the Hon. Horace Walpole, and other unqueſtionable judges, have proved, that this performance was painted before Holbein was born, and that he was not employed even in retouching it. It is probable, however, that, from this antient painting, he took the firſt hint towards compoſing his famous drawings on the dance of death. In treating this ſubject, he has diſplayed ſuch wonderful richneſs of imagination, and diſcovered ſo much judgment in the diſpoſition, and ſo much ſpirit in the execution of the figures, that Rubens ſtudied them with particular attention, and took drawings from them.

The originals of Holbein's dance of death were purchaſed by Mr. Fleichman of Straſbourg, at the ſale of the famous collection of Crozat, at Paris; of which Mariette has publiſhed a catalogue. They are now in the poſſeſſion of prince Gallitzin, miniſter from the empreſs of Ruſſia to the court of Vienna. They conſiſt of forty-four ſmall drawings: the outlines are ſketched with a pen, and they are ſlightly ſhaded with Indian ink. I had frequent opportunities of ſeeing them, during my continuance at Vienna; and particularly admired the variety of attitudes and characters in which death is repreſented.

Prints have been taken from ſome of theſe drawings by Hollar, which are very ſcarce. Mr. de Mechel, a celebrated artiſt of this place, has already engraved them after the original deſigns; a work which cannot fail of being highly acceptable to the admirers of the fine arts. He has added four engravings, which are not in the prince's collection, and which are taken from the prints of Hollar. Mr. de Mechel ingeniouſly conjectures, from the dreſſes and characters of ſeveral of the figures in the dance of death, that the author ſketched them while he was in England. They were, probably, in the Arundelian collection when Hollar engraved them.

He has finiſhed alſo a ſet of prints from the fine paintings of the Duſſeldorf gallery, and likewiſe engravings of the famous Hedlinger's medals. This able artiſt has a ſmall but well-choſen collection of paintings: and his magazine of prints (in which article he carries on a very conſiderable trade) is perhaps one of the largeſt and moſt complete in Europe. I am acquainted with no perſon to whom the curious traveller can addreſs himſelf with greater advantage than to Mr. de Mechel, nor from whom he can receive more uſeful information. To a particular knowledge of the phyſical beauties of Switzerland, he joins a thorough acquaintance with the different governments, cuſtoms, and manners of the ſeveral cantons. As he is intimately connected with the principal men of learning in this country, his letters of recommendation are the moſt deſirable, and the moſt beneficial, that can be procured: and he enjoys as much ſatisfaction in conferring, as can be received by accepting, his good offices. He indeed poſſeſſes a great fund of good-humour, an amiable frankneſs of diſpoſition, and a certain originality of manner, which, together with his other valuable qualities, recommend him as a no leſs pleaſing than uſeful acquaintance.

I viſited alſo the ſmall but pleaſing collection of pictures, moſtly of the Flemiſh and Dutch ſchools, belonging to Mr. Faeſch, member of the Great Council. In the court-yard before his houſe is a wooden ſtatue of Rhodolph I. ſitting on a throne, and clothed with the imperial inſignia; underneath I obſerved the date of 1273, the æra of that emperor's coronation; and the rudeneſs of the ſculpture renders it probable that it is an original of that great emperor, who was beſieging Baſle when he received the unexpected news of his election. The gates were immediately thrown open; and he was inſtantly admitted as a friend into that town, which had ſhut its gates againſt him as their enemy. On this occaſion he reſided a ſhort time at Baſle, and, as tradition relates, in this very houſe.

I am, &c.

LETTER 16.

Government of Baſle.

THE biſhops of Baſle once poſſeſſed the ſovereignty over the city and canton; but were gradually deprived of their prerogatives; and, in 1501, finally quitted this town, when the canton joined the Helvetic confederacy. They at firſt retired to Friburgh in Briſgau, and afterwards, eſtabliſhing their reſidence at Porentru, they entirely loſt the trifling authority and inconſiderable prerogatives which remained to them. Upon the introduction of the reformation in 1525, the conſtitution was in ſome meaſure changed; and the power of the ariſtocracy limited.

It would ſeem in theory ſcarcely poſſible to divide the ariſtocratical and democratical commonwealths into ſo many different ſpecies as exiſt in Switzerland: for, in this country, every republic has its peculiar modification; and there is none more ſingular than that of Baſle. To view the general outlines of the conſtitution, it has the appearance of an abſolute ariſtocracy *; but, upon conſidering it in detail, it will be found to incline towards a democracy. The ſupreme legiſlative power reſides in the Great and Little Councils, conſiſting of about three hundred members: and the authority of theſe two councils combined, is without controul. They enact laws, declare war and peace, contract alliances, and impoſe taxes: they elect the ſeveral

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* An ariſtocracy (ſtrictly ſpeaking) means that form of government, which places the ſupreme power in the nobles, excluſively of the people; but here I mean by it, the confining of the ſovereign authority to a certain limited number of perſons, without conſidering whether they are patricians or plebeians, nobles or commons: for at Baſle every citizen who is noble, and who chuſes to retain his title of nobility, is incapable of being elected a member of the ſovereign council.

magiſtrates, appoint their own members, nominate to all employments, and confer the right of burgherſhip. The general adminiſtration of government is committed by the Great Council to the Senate, or Little Council; that is, to a part of its own body. This Senate, compoſed of ſixty members, together with the four chiefs of the republic, two burgomaſters, and two great tribunes, is divided into two bodies, which act by rotation. The acting diviſion continues in office one year, decides finally in all criminal cauſes, ſuperintends the police, and exerciſes ſeveral other powers ſubordinate to the Sovereign Council. The collective body of citizens aſſembles only once a year, when the magiſtrates publicly take an oath to maintain the conſtitution, and preſerve the liberties and immunities of the people, inviolate. The reciprocal oath of obedience to the laws, is adminiſtred to the citizens in their reſpective tribes.

But, notwithſtanding the great and boundleſs prerogatives of the Great Council; yet the meaneſt citizen is legally capable of being admitted into that body; and, by the ſingular method of election, may poſſibly be choſen. For, the vacancies in the two councils are ſupplied from all ranks of citizens, one claſs only excepted, the members of the univerſity.

Theſe citizens are divided into eighteen tribes, called in German *Zuenfte*; fifteen of which belong to the larger town, and three to the ſmaller: each of the firſt-mentioned fifteen tribes, returns four members to the Senate; and each of the whole eighteen, ſends twelve to the Great Council. Formerly theſe elections were determined by a plurality of voices: but, as by theſe means the richeſt perſon was always certain of being choſen; a *ternaire* was eſtabliſhed in 1718; that is, three candidates were nominated, and from theſe the ſucceſſor was appointed * by lot.

Although this mode of election in ſome meaſure put a ſtop to corruption; yet it was not ſufficient to counteract entirely the influence of the wealthy: and, as the poorer citizens could ſeldom ſucceed to the moſt honourable or lucrative employments; they procured an act to be paſſed in 1740, changing the *ternaire* into a *ſenaire*: by which ſix candidates, inſtead of three, were put in nomination, and drew lots for the charge. Six tickets, containing the names of the reſpective candidates, and ſeparately placed in ſilver eggs, are inſerted into one bag; and the ſame number of tickets, five of which are blanks, and one is marked with the vacant employment, are placed in another. The reigning burgomaſter and the great tribune, appointed to be the drawers of this *official* lottery, both at the ſame inſtant take a ticket from each bag; and the candidate whoſe name comes out at the ſame time with the ticket on which the employment is written, obtains the poſt.

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* The fifteen tribes in the great town are called *Zuenfte*, and the three in the ſmall town *Geſellſchaften*, or companies. It may alſo be remarked, that the citizens of the ſmall town enjoy more advantages than thoſe of the great town; inaſmuch as the former may be appointed to public employments either in the tribes or in the companies; whereas a citizen of the great town cannot be admitted into the companies, unleſs he reſides in the ſmall town.

It would be too tedious, and indeed too unintereſting, a detail, to enter into a minute account of the forms and circumſtances requiſite to be obſerved in ſelecting the ſeveral candidates. To give, however, ſome general idea of this matter: —Upon a vacancy in the Great Council, for inſtance, the ſix candidates muſt be taken from the citizens of that tribe, to which the perſon who occaſioned the vacancy belonged; and muſt be nominated by ſuch of the members of the Great and Little Councils, as are of the ſame tribe. The candidates for the ſenate and for the tribunes or chiefs of each tribe, called in German *meiſter*, are appointed by the Great Council. There is but one caſe, in which the *ſenaire* is not practiſed: for, upon the death of a burgomaſter, his colleague, who is the great tribune, ſucceeds of courſe.

It ſhould ſeem, that many inconveniences muſt neceſſarily flow from this abſurd method of ſupplying vacant poſts in the government; as they are left intirely to the capricious diſpoſal of fortune. In fact, it has not unfrequently happened, that a candidate, whoſe knowledge and abilities rendered him capable of being ſerviceable to the ſtate, has never obtained the ſucceſsful ticket; while fortune has beſtowed it upon another by no means qualified to fulfil the duties of the employment. However, notwithſtanding the ill effects reſulting from this caſual method of election; the management of public affairs is in general tolerably well conducted; and there are few inſtances of civil juſtice being unwiſely adminiſtred, or of innocence being ſacrificed to ſuperior wealth or power.

But the counſellors of ſtate and the ſeveral magiſtrates, are not the only perſons choſen by lot; even the profeſſors in the univerſity are elected in the ſame manner. The three candidates however, (for in this inſtance the *ternaire* is ſtill in uſe) muſt be nominated from thoſe who have taken the degree of doctor. Hence nothing is more common than for a candidate to offer himſelf for the profeſſorſhip of a ſcience, which he has never made the peculiar object of his ſtudies; if the chair of that particular branch of literature in which he excels is already occupied: for, under theſe circumſtances, the reſpective unqualified profeſſors change places with each other. Thus (to mention an inſtance from a family well known) John Bernoulli, the famous mathematical profeſſor in this univerſity, who died in 1748, left three ſons, Nicholas, Daniel, and John, all juſtly celebrated for their ſkill in that ſcience, in which their father and uncle ſo eminently excelled. Nicholas died at St. Peterſburgh, member of the Imperial Academy of Sciences; and Daniel, having followed his brother into Ruſſia, returned to Baſle on obtaining the profeſſorſhip of anatomy, which he afterwards had an opportunity of happily exchanging for that of natural philoſophy, and died in 1782. A ſimilar circumſtance happened to the third ſon John: after being ſeveral times appointed an unſucceſsful candidate in the lottery of profeſſorſhips, chance at length conferred on him the chair of *rhetoric*; but, upon his father's death, he changed with Mr. Rumſpeck, to whom fortune, with her uſual judgment, had aſſigned the profeſſorſhip of mathematics *.

The ſumptuary laws are very ſtrict at Baſle. The uſe of coaches in the town is not indeed prohibited, as at Zuric; but, what is more ſingular, no citizen or inhabitant is allowed to have a ſervant behind his carriage. Laws of this kind may be carried, in ſome inſtances, to a ſcrupulous and even ridiculous minuteneſs; upon the whole, however, they are

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* The following curious epitaph on a lawyer, interred in the cathedral, complains, that the deceaſed, notwithſtanding his advanced age of 84, which had afforded many opportunities of being nominated candidate for various offices of ſtate, had been continually excluded by fortune.

S: Æ: S:
Locum quo Sepeliretur
de ſuo acquiſivit
JOH: GEORG SCHWEIGHAUSER
J. U. L. Ducentum Vir
Fori judiciarii et Appellationis
ultra XL. Annos aſſiduus Aſſeſſor
muneribus autem Academicis
et publicis Officiis
Sorte conſtanter excluſus
vixit tamen et vivere deſiit
ut Virum Honeſtum decet
natus Menſe Januario 1695.
Obiit Die VII Menſis Junii 1779.
H. M. H. P.

excellent regulations, and not only uſeful but neceſſary in a ſmall republic. They have certainly operated with great advantage in this town: for, although it contains ſeveral families who are conſiderably rich; yet a happy ſimplicity of manners is ſtill ſo predominant, that you would ſmile, if I were to particulariſe thoſe articles which paſs under the opprobrious denomination of *luxury*.

The lower rank of citizens are in general ſo ſtrongly prejudiced in favour of their own country, as to ſeem convinced that true felicity is only to be found at Baſle: and indeed that claſs of people are in no part of the world more happy. Every perſon boaſts that he is free, and is ſo in reality: and, as the citizens not only poſſeſs very conſiderable privileges and immunities, but each individual may alſo indulge the hope of being one day choſen into the ſovereign council; he enjoys a certain degree of reſpect and conſideration extremely flattering to his ſelf-importance. In fact, there are ſeveral among the magiſtrates who exerciſe the meaner trades; and the preſent treaſurer, whoſe name is Muench, is a baker: he is indeed a perſon of diſtinguiſhed knowledge and merit; and has been twice appointed one of the candidates for the office of great tribune; which, if fortune had favoured him, would have been followed, on the next vacancy, by his ſucceſſion to the office of burgomaſter.

In general the burghers ſons receive an excellent education: they always learn the Latin, and not unfrequently the Greek tongue; and it is by no means unuſual, even for the lower ſort of tradeſmen, to employ their leiſure hours in the peruſal of Horace, Virgil, and Plutarch.

The conduct of magiſtrates is no where more freely, nor more ſeverely, criticiſed than at Baſle. The people may ſometimes, no doubt, extend this privilege beyond its proper limits; but they can never be totally reſtrained from exerciſing it, without ſtriking at the vitals of their liberty: it is eſſential to its exiſtence, and no free government can long ſurvive its extinction.

Baſle is the largeſt, and ſeems formerly to have been one of the moſt populous, towns in Switzerland: its extent is capable of containing above a hundred thouſand inhabitants; whereas it can ſcarcely number more than fourteen thouſand. Many particular cauſes may have concurred to occaſion this remarkable decreaſe of people; but I will mention only one or two reaſons to which it may be aſſigned.

It is proved, from undoubted calculations, that, in all great cities, the number of burials exceeds that of births; conſequently, unleſs this unequal proportion is compenſated by a conſtant acceſſion of new inhabitants, in proceſs of time every great town muſt neceſſarily become depopulated. Now the citizens of Baſle are ſo jealous of the burgherſhip, and pride themſelves ſo much upon the privileges which accompany it, that they ſeldom deign to confer it upon foreigners: a ſupply therefore to ballance that gradual waſte of people I have mentioned, can never be derived from an influx of ſtrangers, where they are not permitted to carry on commerce, or to follow any trade. A few years ago, ſome of the magiſtrates, ſenſible of the impolicy attending this unlimited prohibition, procured a law, by which the freedom of the town and the right of burgherſhip was allowed to be conferred upon ſtrangers; but it was clogged at the ſame time with ſo many reſtrictions, as by no means to anſwer the purpoſe for which it was intended. Every principle, indeed, of private intereſt and ambition, concurred to prevent its efficacy: and no wonder; for, bodies of men are ſeldom actuated by ſo generous a ſpirit as to ſacrifice their perſonal and immediate advantages, to the future welfare and proſperity of their country.

I am, &c.

LETTER 17.

Combat at the Hoſpital of St. James, between the Forces of Louis Dauphin of France, and a Corps of Swiſs Troops—Ruins of Augſt—Mulhauſen.

CURIOSITY led me, during my continuance at Baſle, to viſit the hoſpital and burying-ground of St. James, not far from the town, and near the ſmall river Birs, celebrated for a deſperate combat, in 1444, between the Swiſs and the dauphin of France, afterwards Louis the Eleventh: and never was Swiſs valour and intrepidity ſo ſignally diſplayed, as by a few battalions of their troops on that memorable day.

This famous battle was fought in conſequence of ſome diſputes, which aroſe between the canton of Zuric and thoſe of Schweitz and Glarus. Zuric refuſing to abide by the mediation of the five neutral cantons, who had decided in favour of Schweitz, and Glarus, a civil war enſued: upon which occaſion, Zuric formed an alliance with the emperor Frederic the Third. The ſeven antient cantons, in order to obtain a renunciation of this alliance, which they juſtly conſidered as an infringement of their league, laid ſiege to that town. Frederic, unable to ſend a ſufficient body of troops to its relief, applied for additional ſuccours to Charles the Seventh, king of France; who, as well with a view of diſſolving the council of Baſle, as for the particular purpoſe required, ordered a conſiderable army to march, under the command of his ſon Louis. Accordingly the dauphin entered with his forces into Alſace; and, after laying waſte and harraſſing the adjacent provinces, appeared before Baſle. Upon this occaſion, a detachment of fifteen hundred Swiſs from the army of the confederates (at that time employed in beſieging Farnſpurg) were ordered to throw themſelves into the town of Baſle, which was but thinly garriſoned.

This handful of men advanced without interruption to the plain of Brattelen; where they charged, with ſuch determined and well-conducted valour, eight thouſand of the enemy's cavalry, that the latter were driven back as far as Muttenz; at which place the repulſed were joined by another corps: but, notwithſtanding this reinforcement, the Swiſs renewing the aſſault with freſh intrepidity, forced them to repaſs the river Birs; where the main body of the army was chiefly drawn up. Such was the firmneſs and ſolidity of the Swiſs in theſe ſeveral rencounters, that, to uſe the expreſſion of an old

French chronicle, when the cavalry charged “ they could make no more impreſſion, than if “ they had attacked a rock, or an impenetrable “ wall.” The Swiſs, encouraged by this wonderful ſucceſs, and exaſperated with the moſt ſpirited indignation againſt the invaders of their country, diſregarded the remonſtrances of their officers, and raſhly attempted to force their paſſage over a bridge, which was guarded by a large body of the enemy: but this effort of inconſiderate valour proving ineffectual, theſe gallant ſoldiers, throwing themſelves into the river, gained the oppoſite ſhore, in the face of a battery of cannon that was playing againſt them.

What could the deſperate courage of ſo ſmall a number avail, againſt an army of thirty thouſand men advantageouſly poſted in an open plain? They had no alternative but either to throw down their arms, or glorioſly expire. They bravely preferred the latter: accordingly five hundred took poſſeſſion of a ſmall iſland near the bridge, and, after reſolutely defending themſelves to the laſt extremity, were cut to pieces. A like number forced their way through the ranks of the enemy, and were making towards Baſle; when they were oppoſed by a large body of horſe, poſted there to prevent the inhabitants of the town from ſallying to the relief of their countrymen. Being now ſurrounded on all ſides, they threw themſelves into the hoſpital of St. James; and, lining the walls of the burying-ground, reſiſted for ſome time the united aſſaults of the whole French army. At length the hoſpital being ſet on fire, and the cannon having battered down the walls of the burying-ground, they fought no longer in hopes of victory; but ſtill reſolving to ſell their lives as dear as poſſible, they continued to defend themſelves to the laſt gaſp.

Æneas Sylvius (afterwards pope Pius II.) relates, among other actions of ſingular valour, exerted by this heroic troop, a particular inſtance which I cannot forbear mentioning. Four French ſoldiers aſſaulted a ſingle Swiſs, and having killed and ſtripped him, proceeded to inſult the corpſe: one of his companions, incenſed at this brutal action, ſeized a battle-ax, ruſhed upon the four, ſlew two of them, and drove the others to flight; then flinging the dead body of his friend upon his ſhoulders, carried it to a place of ſecurity; and returning to the attack, fell by the hand of the enemy.

Of the whole number but ſixteen eſcaped from the field of battle; and theſe, agreeably to the old Spartan diſcipline, were branded with infamy, for not having ſacrificed their lives in defence of their country. Among thoſe who were deſperately wounded, and left upon the field of action, only thirty-two were found alive. The names of many of theſe glorious combatants were carefully regiſtered, and ſtill remain upon record.

It is not eaſy to aſcertain the number of forces on both ſides in this ever-memorable engagement. As far as we can judge, by comparing the ſeveral relations of the French and German hiſtorians, the army of the dauphin conſiſted of at leaſt thirty thouſand. Charles and his ſon Louis, in their letters to the German princes on this occaſion, aſſert, that three thouſand Swiſs fell on the field of battle; and perhaps that account is not much exaggerated. With reſpect to the ſlain on the ſide of the dauphin, the amount is ſtill more uncertain: his loſs, however, muſt have been very conſiderable, for he remained three days upon the field of battle; and, the better to conceal the number of the killed, he ordered the dead bodies to be ſecretly interred in different parts of the neighbourhood. Add to this, that he was effectually prevented from proſecuting his deſigns upon Switzerland, and compelled to retire with his ſhattered army into Alſace. Louis himſelf, indeed, declared, that ſuch another victory would ruin his army;

and generouſly confeſſed, that he derived from it no other advantage, than to know and eſteem the valour of the Swiſs. Accordingly, this combat may be conſidered as forming a remarkable æra in the hiſtory of the Swiſs: for, it gave riſe to their treaty with Charles the Seventh, the firſt alliance which they contracted with France.

The war, however, between the Houſe of Auſtria and Zuric on one ſide, and the ſeven cantons on the other, continued until the year 1446, when a peace was concluded by the mediation and deciſion of certain arbiters: Zuric renounced its connection with the Houſe of Auſtria; and the Helvetic Confederacy was again ſolemnly renewed and confirmed between the eight cantons. Upon this occaſion, two very important articles in the public law of Switzerland, were finally ſettled: Firſt, that all diſputes between any particular cantons, ſhould be decided by the mediation of the neutral cantons; and if either of the two contending parties ſhould decline to acquieſce under their judgment, the neutral cantons are empowered to have recourſe to arms, in order to compel the recuſant to abide by their determination: Secondly, notwithſtanding the right which either of the cantons might have reſerved to itſelf, of contracting alliances with foreign powers, yet the other confederates are to judge, whether ſuch alliance is contradictory to, or incompatible with, the articles of the general union; and if it ſhould appear to be ſo, it is declared utterly null and void.

The Swiſs ſtill talk of this famous action with the warmeſt enthuſiaſm. Accordingly, the inhabitants of Baſle form parties every year, to an inn ſituated near the hoſpital and burying-ground above-mentioned, in order to commemorate, in a red wine produced from ſome vineyards planted on the field of battle, the heroic deeds of their brave countrymen, who ſo gloriouſly ſacrificed their lives upon the occaſion. This wine, which they call the "*Blood of the Swiſs,*" is highly prized by the Baſileans, though it has little to recommend it in point of flavour; nevertheleſs, I am much miſtaken, if that famous line of Horace,

> *Non miſſura cutem niſi* plena *cruoris,*

was more applicable to the teazing poet he mentions, than it is to thoſe jovial patriotic parties, at the anniverſary compotations of the "*Blood of the Swiſs.*"

Near Baſle are the ruins of *Auguſta Rauricorum*, formerly a large town under the dominion of the Romans, now a ſmall village in the canton of Baſle, cloſe to the Rhine. Its antient remains are very inconſiderable, conſiſting of a few columns of marble, ſtill ſtanding, and ſome ſcattered fragments of pillars, together with a ſemicircular range of walls upon a riſing ground, the greateſt part of which has fallen, and is almoſt entirely overgrown with underwood. From the preſent appearance of the laſt-mentioned ruins, I ſhould hardly have conjectured that they once compoſed part of a theatre, capable of containing above twelve thouſand ſpectators. But the celebrated Schæfflin has given, in his *Alſatia Illuſtrata*, a particular deſcription of this theatre, and of the temple, to which the marble columns formerly belonged. I noticed alſo the remains of ſome ſmall aqueducts, which conveyed water to the town from the diſtance of above twelve miles: but none of theſe antient relics are ſufficiently remarkable to merit the trouble of a particular viſit.

The peaſants, in turning up the ground where theſe ruins are ſituated, frequently find medals of the Roman emperors, from Auguſtus to Conſtantine; and are become, by repeated experience, able to diſtinguiſh, with ſome degree of preciſion, thoſe that are rare from the more common coins. I purchaſed of a labourer two medals, which he had juſt found; a Trajan and an Albinus: and though the former was by far the moſt perfect, yet he exacted three times as much for the latter, becauſe he had never ſeen it, he ſaid, before.

From Baſle I made an excurſion to Mulhauſen, a town in alliance with the Swiſs cantons; which, though ſituated at the diſtance of ſeveral miles from the frontiers of Switzerland, and entirely encloſed within the dominions of France, is yet conſidered and reſpected as a part of the Helvetic Confederacy; and entitled to all the privileges enjoyed by that body.

Mulhauſen ſtands in Sundgau, a diſtrict of Alſace, about fifteen miles from Baſle; in a fertile plain, at the bottom of a ridge of hills, and at a ſmall diſtance from the Voges. The walls of the town encloſe a circumference of not more than two miles, and its whole territory is compriſed within a precinct of eight miles.

This little republic maintained its privileges, which had been granted by the emperors, during the times of feudal tyranny, by contracting an alliance, at different intervals, with Baſle, Straſburgh, and the towns of Alſace and Suabia; and afterwards, in the middle of the fifteenth century, with Berne, Friburgh, and Soleure. At length, in 1515, it was received into the Helvetic Confederacy; which league has preſerved its liberty and independence from the encroachments of the empire, on one hand, and, on the other, from the attacks of France. The inhabitants are of the Reformed religion. The town contains about eight hundred houſes, and ſix thouſand ſouls, and there are two thouſand ſubjects in the villages within its little territory. Mulhauſen owes its preſent flouriſhing ſtate, to its manufactures, which conſiſt principally of printed linens and cottons.

The government is ariſto-democratical. The ſupreme power reſides in the Great and Little Councils, conſiſting both together of ſeventy-eight perſons, and drawn from the burghers, whoſe number amounts to ſeven hundred, diſtributed into ſix tribes.

Mr. Koehlin's commercial ſchool deſerves to be mentioned. It is a private inſtitution for about thirty ſcholars, who are inſtructed in the German, French, and Latin languages; in fencing, dancing, and all polite accompliſhments; and more particularly in accounts and book-keeping. The expence, including an uniform, amounts to £. 50 *per annum.* The plan is very judicious, and the whole appeared to me to be well conducted.

LETTER 18.

Biſhopric of Baſle—Porentru—Abbey of Bellelay—Arleſheim—Delmont—Valley of Munſter—Pierre Pertuis—Valley of St. Imier.

ALTHOUGH the greateſt part of the dominions ſubject to the biſhop of Baſle, or, as he is called by the Proteſtants, the Prince of Porentru, is not compriſed within the limits of Switzerland; yet as, till lately, he was in alliance with the Catholic cantons, and as many of his ſubjects, even in thoſe diſtricts which lie within the German empire, are comburghers with Berne, and under the protection of that republic, his territory is uſually included in all the topographical accounts of Switzerland. It merits alſo the notice of the traveller for its romantic ſcenes, of the mineralogiſt for the variety of its petrifactions and foſſils, and of the politician for the peculiarity of its government, and the numerous and complicated immunities of the people.

Having made various excurſions into this country, I ſhall lay before you a general account of its political ſtate, and a particular deſcription of thoſe parts which I had an opportunity of viſiting.

The biſhopric of Baſle may be claſſed under two general diviſions: the firſt lies to the ſouth of Pierre Pertüis, and forms a part of Switzerland; the ſecond, to the north of the ſame boundary, includes that diſtrict ſituated within the German empire.

The ſovereign of this country is choſen by the chapter of eighteen canons, reſident at Arleſheim, and confirmed by the pope. He is prince of the German empire; and does homage to the emperor for that part of his territory which lies in the Circle of the Upper Rhine. He was always conſidered as an ally of the Swiſs, by his union with the Catholic cantons, firſt formed in 1579, and renewed at different intervals, particularly in 1671 and 1697; and by being included in the treaty which thoſe cantons contracted with France in 1715. But as he was not compriſed among the allies of the Swiſs, in the league between the thirteen cantons and Louis the Sixteenth, in 1777, he can at preſent ſcarcely be eſteemed a member of the Helvetic Confederacy.

The firſt particular alliance with France was concluded in 1739, between the biſhop and Louis the Fifteenth; and was renewed in 1780. By virtue of this treaty the biſhop has troops in the French ſervice; and his ſubjects enjoy all the privileges which are granted to the natives of the thirteen cantons.

In caſe of a rupture between France and the Empire, he is bound to remain neuter. But this neutrality did not, in 1675, prevent the French troops from being quartered in his dominions, as forming part of the empire; and they were only removed at the interceſſion of the Catholic cantons. If a miſunderſtanding ſhould ariſe between France and the Emperor, the biſhop's ſituation would be extremely embarraſſing; as his doubtful connection with the Swiſs would ſcarcely preſerve his territory from being invaded by one of thoſe two powers.

The form of government is a limited monarchy: the biſhop being bound, on all important occaſions, to conſult his chapter; and his prerogative being confined by the great immunities enjoyed by his ſubjects in general, and particularly by thoſe of the Reformed communion. He nominates to all employments, both civil and military, and appoints the bailifs or governors; criminal juſtice is adminiſtered in his name; and he has the power of pardoning. In civil proceedings, he receives an appeal from the inferior courts; but in his German dominions, when the cauſe exceeds the value of a ſtipulated ſum, it may be carried to the chambers of Wetzlar or Vienna.

The ſubjects of the biſhop are partly Proteſtants and partly Catholics. The Proteſtants, of whom a more particular account will be given, inhabit the greateſt part of the valley of Munſter, and the whole diſtrict to the ſouth of Pierre Pertuis, and are about 15,000; the Catholics amount to 35,000.

The French and German languages being both ſpoken in the biſhop's dominions, ſeveral places have two names, that ſcarcely reſemble each other; namely, *Munſter* and *Moitier*, *Dachfeld* and *Tavannes*, *Delmont* and *Delſberg*, *Corrandelin* and *Rennendorf*, *Elay* and *Seehof*.

Porentru, capital of the biſhop's dominions, and his principal reſidence, is ſituated in the bailliage of Elſgau, about three miles from the frontiers of France. It is a ſmall but neat town; and its poſition, in an oval plain, ſurrounded by well-wooded hills, and watered by a ſerpentine rivulet, is exceedingly pleaſant. The epiſcopal palace, which has been lately repaired and augmented, ſtands on an eminence overlooking the town, and the environs fertile in corn and paſture. One of the towers, built of ſtone, and ſaid to be of Roman workmanſhip, ſtill remains a monument of its antiquity.

The high roads, which lead from all quarters to Porentru, and have been formed at a conſiderable expence, do honour to the ſovereigns of this country. The way to Bellelay and Bienne, is a magnificent cauſeway: it traverſes a mountainous diſtrict; is carried over hanging terraces; through " twilight groves," and along continued acclivities and declivities. I purſued the latter part by moonlight; and the reflection of the rays quivering through the thick foliage was inconceivably beautiful.

Bellelay, which I viſited in my journey from Bienne to Porentru, is a rich abbey of Benedictines, about twenty miles from the capital, in a ſolitary but not unpleaſant ſituation, ſurrounded by mountains, and ſheltered by foreſts. This abbey is not merely confined to religious purpoſes; the late abbot, Nicholas de Luce, having inſtituted a military academy, for the young nobility and gentry. For this purpoſe he erected a large building near the abbey, and provided ſuitable maſters and profeſſors. When I was there, the number of ſcholars amounted to forty. They are inſtructed in various branches of polite literature; they wear uniforms; and are trained to military manœuvres and exerciſes. The cheapneſs of this ſchool, and its diſtance from the diſſipation of large towns, renders it of great public utility. The whole expence of each ſcholar, for his board, lodging, inſtruction, and various leſſons, ſcarcely exceeds £. 20 *per annum.* It is curious to find a military academy eſtabliſhed in the midſt of rocks and foreſts, and within the walls of a convent; and to obſerve Benedictine friars, inſtead of waſting their time in monkiſh ignorance and ſuperſtition, rendering themſelves beneficial to ſociety.

The chapter, compoſed of eighteen canons, who, upon a vacancy in the ſee, poſſeſs the right of electing the biſhop, was fixed at Friburgh in Briſgau from the period of the reformation, which drove them from Baſle, to 1677, when Friburgh was occupied by the French troops. In the following year the chapter was transferred to Arleſheim, where it now reſides. The vacant canonries are filled alternately by the pope and chapter.

On the 14th of Auguſt 1786, I made an excurſion, in company with ſeveral friends, to Arleſheim, which is a ſmall but agreeably ſituated place, almoſt four miles from Baſle. We had the honour of dining with the Baron de Ligertz, one of the canons. After a repaſt, no leſs elegant than agreeable, our hoſt politely accompanied us to a garden ſtyled The Hermitage, about a quarter of a mile from Arleſheim; which was laid out at the joint expence of the baron and of Madame d'Andlau, the bailif's lady, with a view to employ the poor in a time of great ſcarcity, and to provide walks for the inhabitants of the town. The grounds are very extenſive; and pleaſant. The walks are carried along the ſides of the rocks, which are richly wooded, and through a delightful ſemicircular plain, bounded by fertile hills, and watered by a ſmall lake, the borders of which are peculiarly wild and pictureſque. Several caverns, hollowed and arched by the hand of nature, add to the romantic ſingularity of the ſcenery; while many tranſparent ſtreams, conveyed from a conſiderable diſtance, fall in ſmall caſcades, or bubble from the ground like real ſprings. A faſtidious obſerver might perhaps remark of this enchanting ſpot, that in a few circumſtances nature has been too much ſacrificed to art; and that there are ſome buildings leſs calculated to pleaſe than to ſurpriſe.

The following elegant inſcription for this charming hermitage was extemporarily compoſed by profeſſor Oberlin of Straſburgh, one of our party.

HOSPES·AMICE,
HASCE·DELICIAS.
NATURÆ·DEBES·
DEBES·INDUSTRIÆ·
BALBINÆ·AB·ANDLAV.
HENRICI·A·LIGERTZ.

I ſhall cloſe this letter with an account of my journey from Baſle to Bienne, through the vallies of Lauffen, Delmont, Munſter, and St. Imier, a tract of country in the biſhopric of Baſle, which is not inferior in beauty to the moſt delightful parts of Switzerland.

We quitted Baſle early in the morning; and paſſed through a fertile plain watered by the Birs, and bounded by two chains of the Jura; one whereof terminates abruptly, ſupporting on its ſummit the caſtle of Wertenburgh. As we continued our route, the plain gradually narrowed; the mountains approached each other; and we entered the rich valley of Lauffen, encloſed between the rocks, ſprinkled with groves of oak and beech, and exhibiting many romantic points of view. Lauffen, which gives name to the valley, has its own magiſtrates, and inferior courts of juſtice. The natives are induſtrious: thoſe who are not employed in agriculture, gain a comfortable livelihood from making cloth, ſpinning yarn, and knitting worſted ſtockings. The inhabitants of the valley talk German, and thoſe of Sautier, a ſmall neighbouring village, French, which language is ſpoken through the vallies of Delmont, Munſter, and St. Imier.

About three leagues from Lauffen we came to a narrow paſs, entered the valley of Delmont, near Sautier; quitted the high road, and gently aſcended to Delmont, which ſtands pleaſantly on an acclivity, backed by a ridge of rocks embrowned with firs.

In this ſmall town reſide the provoſt and canons, who compoſe the chapter formerly eſtabliſhed at Munſter; which was removed here, in 1630, on the introduction of the Reformed religion in the valley of Munſter. At the extremity of the town is the epiſcopal palace, built in 1718, by Conrad Baron of Reinach, and biſhop of Baſle: it commands a fine view of the adjacent country. The bailif, who holds his court in this town, has juriſdiction over the valleys of Delmont and Munſter. In criminal proceedings he arreſts and examines; and can inflict ſmall penalties for trifling miſdemeanors; but in all caſes of notoriety, the delinquent is either tried at Porentru, or the bailif's ſentence muſt be confirmed or amended in that ſupreme tribunal.

Civil cauſes are firſt adjudged in the provincial courts; from whoſe deciſion an appeal lies to the epiſcopal tribunal at Porentru; and from thence to the imperial chambers of Wetzlar or Vienna.

Delmont contains eight hundred inhabitants, who are all Catholics: they have their own magiſtrates and inferior tribunals.

About a mile from Delmont I ſtopped at Corrandelin, a ſmall village in the Catholic diſtrict of the valley of Munſter, in order to examine an iron foundery belonging to the biſhop. The ore is drawn from the valley of Delmont, near the villages of Corou, Wick, Recolens, and Sepres; it is taken from the ground in ſmall pieces, ſeldom larger than the ſize of a pea. The director informed me, that it is uſually found in that ſtate, and very rarely in maſſes. The largeſt he ever remembered to have ſeen, was ten feet long, two thick, and two broad. He added, that the mountains in the neighbourhood abound with ore, which would yield conſiderable quantities of iron, if ſufficient charcoal could be procured for the ſmelting furnaces. As he was but lately appointed director, he could not give any accurate intelligence concerning the annual quantity of iron ſmelted in this foundery; but informed me, in general, that the different ores yielded altogether two thirds of pure mineral, the quality whereof was extremely fine, and ſcarcely inferior to the beſt ſort exported from Sweden.

Corrandelin, together with the villages of Chatillon, Roſſemaiſon, Vellerat, Courchappois, Corbaon, Mervellier, and Elay, though connected as to eccleſiaſtical affairs with the valley of Delmont, form that part of the valley of Munſter, which is called the *Catholic*, or *Lower* Diſtrict. It is denominated the *Catholic* Diſtrict, becauſe the inhabitants are excluſively of the Romiſh church; and *Lower* Diſtrict, becauſe it is ſituated *unter den felſen*, or *below* the ridge of rocks which ſeparate it from the *Upper*, or *Proteſtant* Diſtrict. But before I proceed further, it will be neceſſary to deſcribe the general diviſions of this valley, and the civil and religious immunities of the natives, that you may be enabled to comprehend its complicated topography, and its curious political ſtate, by which, though ſubject to the biſhop of Baſle, it is under the protection of the canton of Berne.

The valley of Munſter, or Moitier, extends from the valley of Delmont to Pierre Pertuis; and is included in that part of the biſhop's dominions which lie within the German empire. But, as the inhabitants have, for above three hundred years, been in alliance with Berne, and under the protection of that republic, the valley is conſidered by many authors as forming part of Switzerland. It is divided into two principal diſtricts; the *Catholic* or *Lower* Diſtrict, which lies at the extremity of the valley of Delmont, and compriſes the eight villages above-mentioned; the *Proteſtant* or *Upper* Diſtrict, which ſtretches from the chain of rocks near Corrandelin, to Pierre Pertuis, its ſouthern boundary; and containing, 1. The Greater Valley, or Valley of Tavannes; and 2. The Leſſer Valley, which is ſubdivided into Grand-Val, or the Great Valley, and the Little Valley, or the Valley of Sornetan.

The inhabitants of both diſtricts are comburghers with the canton of Berne. The firſt treaty of comburgherſhip was contracted in 1484. In that year, Berne and the biſhop of Baſle reſpectively ſupporting two candidates for the provoſtſhip of Munſter; the former marched an army into theſe parts, took poſſeſſion of the whole valley, and exacted homage from the inhabitants. Theſe diſputes being compromiſed at the treaty of Corrandelin, Berne reſtored the valley to the biſhop on the following conditions: that the inhabitants ſhould be maintained in all their privileges; continue as comburghers with Berne, under the protection of that republic; remain neuter in caſe of a war between Berne and the biſhop; and follow the ſtandard of Berne, when the latter was engaged in hoſtilities againſt any other power. This treaty of comburgherſhip, renewed at different intervals, has excited frequent diſputes between Berne and the biſhop; and particularly in 1705 and 1711 occaſioned an open rupture. Theſe diſputes were finally adjuſted at the pacification of Arau; when the biſhop ratified the treaty of comburgherſhip; confirmed all the rights and immunities of the inhabitants, and conſented to the mediation and interference of Berne.

The affairs of religion excited for ſome time no leſs conteſt between the biſhop and Berne than the treaty of comburgherſhip. The reformation being adopted, in 1531, by a conſiderable number of the inhabitants in the valley of Munſter, civil commotions enſued; Berne interfered in behalf of the Proteſtants, and the biſhop protected the antient church eſtabliſhment. It was at length, however, amicably ſettled between both parties; that the majority of each pariſh ſhould freely decide, whether the inhabitants ſhould profeſs the Roman catholic or the Reformed religion; and that the chapter of Munſter ſhould continue to receive the tythes, on condition of diſcharging the ſalaries of the Proteſtant miniſters. In conſequence of this rational compromiſe, the eight villages, which now form the *Lower* diſtrict, voted for the maintenance of the Catholic religion; and the pariſhes of the upper diſtrict for the Reformed church. Accordingly the two perſuaſions were reſpectively eſtabliſhed in theſe two diſtricts; the chapter retained its eſtates and tythes, but quitting Munſter, where the new doctrines were admitted, retired firſt to Soleure, and afterwards ſettled at Delmont: but, as ſeveral Proteſtants and Catholics continued promiſcuouſly to inhabit the two diſtricts, diſturbances were occaſionally renewed. Nor were the religious differences entirely compoſed till the peace of Arau; which enjoined, that all the members of the two perſuaſions ſhould be finally ſeparated; that all the inhabitants of the *Upper* diſtrict, who then profeſſed or ſhould hereafter profeſs the Catholic religion, ſhould retire to Elay; and that in the ſame manner the Proteſtants in the *Lower* diſtrict ſhould remove to the *Upper* diſtrict. Since this period, the moſt perfect harmony has ſubſiſted between them.

By virtue of the alliance with Berne, that republic annually deputes one of its magiſtrates to this valley for the purpoſe of inquiring if the civil and religious immunities have been preſerved inviolate, and an eccleſiaſtic: the latter, called inſpector of the churches in the valley of Munſter, examines into the ſtate of eccleſiaſtical diſcipline; and diſtributes among the inhabitants of the *Upper* diſtrict catechiſms and pſalters. Berne alſo approves the nomination of the miniſters to the vacant benefices, ſome of whom are appointed and paid by the biſhop, others by the chapters of Delmont and Bellelay; as the biſhop or chapters poſſeſs the tythes in the reſpective pariſhes.

But to return from this digreſſion.—Soon after quitting Corrandelin, I entered the *Proteſtant* diſtrict, through a paſs between two rocks, which nearly approach each other, and juſt leave an opening ſufficient for the Birs and the road. This paſs leads into a narrow glen, about four miles in length, and in many places almoſt reſembling a ſubterraneous abyſs. The road winds by the ſide of the impetuous Birs, and at the bottom of two ranges of rocks: theſe rocks are of white limeſtone, of inacceſſible height; and though in moſt places abſolutely perpendicular, yet are agreeably feathered with trees, and particularly towards their ſummits, which over-hang, and ſcarcely admit the light of the ſun. In the midſt of this glen is La Roche, the firſt Proteſtant village in the valley of Munſter; the houſes whereof ſtand on both ſides of the Birs, where the rocks recede a little, and preſent a gentle ſlope.

On iſſuing from this glen, we entered a fertile plain encircled by hills, in the midſt of which is ſituated the village of Munſter or Moitier: it takes that appellation from the chapter of canons, who, upon the reformation, quitted this place of their reſidence and ſettled themſelves at Delmont.

About half a mile from Munſter we came into another glen, near three miles in length; it is called *Chaluet*, of a ſimilar nature with that which we traverſed between Corrandelin and the plain of Munſter, but ſtill wilder and more craggy, deeper and more obſcure. It is alſo divided by the Birs, which ruſhes through it with great impetuoſity; and is ſo narrow, that the road occupies the whole ſpace between the torrent and the mountain, and the wheels of our carriage frequently on one ſide bruſhed the rock, and on the other ran cloſe to the precipice which overhangs the river. This cauſeway, over broken crags and ſteep precipices, does honour to the prince who carried it into execution. The following inſcription, which I obſerved near a bridge in the midſt of this obſcure glen, may, perhaps ſeem exaggerated, to a perſon unacquainted with the natural impediments of the country; but to me, on the ſpot, appeared ſtrictly conſonant to truth.

Joſephus Gulielmus
Ex Rinchnis de Baldenſtein
Baſilienſium Epiſcopus Princeps
Viam Veteribus Incluſam
Rupibus et Clauſtris Montium Ruptis
Birſâ Pontibus Stratâ
Opere Romanis Digno
Aperuit.
Anno. D. M.DCC.LII.

Although in various parts of Switzerland I had frequently obſerved the juſtneſs of the remark, that in all deep vallies which interſect the mountains, the ſalient angles on one ſide alternately correſpond with the cavities on the other; and that parallel ſtráta of rock anſwer to each other, in all directions and at all heights; yet I never ſaw this fact more ſtrongly exemplified than in the two ridges of lime-ſtone that border this glen. They are of a ſtupendous height; and the ſtrata horizontal, inclined, or almoſt perpendicular on one ſide, are exactly ſimilar and of the ſame thickneſs on the other: a circumſtance, which, joined to the correſponding ſituation of the angles, ſeems to prove, that they were formerly united, and have been either rent aſunder by ſome ſudden convulſion, or ſeparated by the gradual attrition of the waters.

At the extremity of the Chaluet we entered another plain, well cultivated, and agreeably ſpotted with villages; and arrived towards the cloſe of the evening at Molleray, where we paſſed the night. The people in theſe parts appear happy and contented, and are extremely induſtrious. The greateſt part are employed in agriculture; a few, encouraged by their neighbours of Locle and Chaux de Fond, have lately introduced ſeveral trades into theſe mountains; and Belleval, a ſmall neighbouring village, already contains five watchmakers.

From Molleray we continued along a fertile plain by the ſide of the Birs; through ſeveral pleaſant and well-looking villages, of which Tavannes, in German *Dachfeld*, is the largeſt. In about two miles we arrived at the extremity of the plain, which is cloſed by a rock, through which opens the celebrated paſs called *Pierre Pertuis*. At the bottom of this rock, the Birs burſts from the ground in ſeveral copious ſprings, and turns two mills within a few paces of its principal ſource.

Pierre Pertuis is a large arched aperture through a ſolid rock, about thirty feet long, forty-five broad, and thirty high in the loweſt part, which ſome aver to have been formed by nature, others by art. A Roman inſcription over the arch, extremely defaced, has given ſufficient employment to the ingenuity of antiquaries. Having ſeen ſeveral fac-ſimiles, greatly differing from each other, I copied it as exactly as the height would permit.

\VMINI AVGS
TM
CTA PER I
O Λ VM PATER.
IVI COL. HELV.

Of this inſcription many ſolutions have been attempted; but the moſt probable are the two following:

Numini Auguſtorum via facta per Titum dunnium Paternum $\overline{\text{II}}$ *virum Colon Helvet.*—Others read, *per montem durvum Paternus.*

Both theſe ſolutions imply, that a road was formed through the mountain by Paternus, a duumvir, during the reigns of Marcus Aurelius and Verus. From the latter explanation, *per montem durvum,*

durvum, ſome antiquarians have endeavoured to prove, that he cut through the rock; and conſequently, that the arch is the work of art, not of nature: while others maintain, that it by no means follows, even from this reading, that the rock was pierced by order of Paternus; but merely that the road was carried through the rock*. Not to detain you, however, with fanciful conjectures, I ſhall only add, that on examining the inſcription with attention, the words which antiquarians have ſupplied, to ſupport their particular ſyſtems, are extremely doubtful; and that to me, who obſerved the arch without partiality or prejudice in favour of any hypotheſis, it appeared to have been originally a great cavern, either totally formed by nature, or if aſſiſted by art, that only a ſmall part of its ſouthern extremity was opened by the labour of men.

The ſouthern extremity of *Pierre Pertuis* leads into the valley of St. Imier, ſometimes called Enguel, which compriſes the biſhop's dominions lying in Switzerland. The inhabitants are Proteſtants, and governed by a bailif appointed by the biſhop. He reſides at Courtelari; but his authority is exceedingly limited by the various privileges, both civil and religious, poſſeſſed by the natives. Their religious immunities, confirmed by the biſhop, are guarantied by the four Reformed cantons. The whole diſtrict lies within the Jura mountains; and is fertile in paſture. The inhabitants are induſtrious.

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* The reader, who wiſhes to examine this ſubject with attention, is referred to Schæfflin's *Alſatia Illuſtrata*, and to a diſſertation on the ſubject publiſhed by Buxtorf.

On arriving on the extremity of mount Jura, a glorious proſpect burſts upon the view, commanding the undulating country fertiliſed by the Aar, backed by the majeſtic chain of Alps extending beyond the frontiers of Savoy. Deſcending gently into the plain with this glorious proſpect before us, and which was heightened by the luminous ſplendour of the mid-day ſun, we croſſed the Sure, and finiſhed our delightful expedition at Bienne.

From Pierre Pertuis to Bienne, a ſuperb cauſeway is carried along a continual deſcent for about ſix miles; it winds through thick foreſts, and overhangs the deep abyſs, in which the Sure, a turbid and impetuous torrent, precipitates its courſe, always roaring, and frequently unſeen, in its rocky channel.

LETTER 19.

The Town of Bienne.

THE ſmall territory of Bienne, containing ſcarcely ſix thouſand inhabitants, lies between the lake and a chain of the Jura mountains: it is ſurrounded by the cantons of Berne and Soleure, the biſhopric of Baſle, and the principality of Neuchâtel. The town is ſituated at the foot of the Jura, and at a little diſtance from the lake; which is here about nine miles in length, and four in breadth: the borders are pleaſing and picturesſque; and the town of Nidau forms a very beautiful object upon its eaſtern ſide.

The biſhop of Baſle is the ſovereign of this little ſtate: his power, formerly conſiderable, is at preſent exceedingly limited. Indeed the conſtitution of Bienne is of ſo very peculiar a nature, that I know not well by what name it can be diſtinguiſhed: it cannot properly be called either a limited monarchy, or an independent republic; but ſeems rather to be a mixed government, partaking ſomewhat of both.

The biſhop of Baſle receives, upon his promotion to the biſhopric, the homage of the citizens and militia of this town, with all the apparent ceremonials of the moſt abſolute ſubmiſſion;

but at the ſame time, he confirms, in the ſtrongeſt manner, all their privileges and franchiſes. He is repreſented by a mayor of his own appointing, whoſe power and office conſiſt in convoking, and preſiding in, the Little Council, as the chief court of juſtice; in collecting the ſuffrages, and declaring the ſentence; but without giving any vote himſelf. And, although juſtice is carried on, and executed, in the name of the biſhop, yet neither that prince nor the mayor, has the prerogative of pardoning criminals, or of mitigating the ſentence. All cauſes, civil as well as criminal, are brought before this council in the firſt inſtance; and in more important proceedings, an appeal lies to the Sovereign Council: in both caſes, each party chooſes a member of the council to act as his advocate; which office he is obliged to diſcharge without fee or recompence.

The ſovereign's revenue amounts only to about £. 300 a year: but, mean as his civil liſt is, it is ſtill more conſiderable than his power; for he does not poſſeſs the leaſt ſhare of the adminiſtration. The legiſlative authority reſides in the Great and Little Councils combined: the former conſiſts of forty members; and the latter, in which the executive power is veſted, is compoſed of twenty-four; the members of each muſt be married men. Both theſe councils elect their reſpective members; and ſo far the conſtitution is entirely ariſtocratical. The burgomaſter, or chief of the regency, is choſen by the two councils, and preſides at their meetings. He continues in office during life; in which, however, he, as well as the ſeveral magiſtrates, muſt be confirmed annually by the two councils. The ſalaries annexed to theſe poſts are exceedingly moderate: and, indeed, the general expences of government are ſo very ſmall, that, in proportion to them, its revenues may well be conſidered as abundantly ample.

It appears, therefore, that this Proteſtant republic, notwithſtanding the ſovereignty of its Catholic biſhop, enjoys in the fulleſt extent the power of impoſing taxes, contracting alliances, declaring war and peace; and, in ſhort, of exerciſing every other act of abſolute and independent legiſlation. This ſingular conſtitution is guarantied by Berne, Friburgh, and Soleure, with whom the town is cloſely allied; in conſequence of which, it becomes a member of the Helvetic Confederacy. And, what is ſomewhat remarkable, this alliance between thoſe cantons and the town of Bienne, is of a ſuperior nature to that of the ſame cantons with the biſhop of Baſle: for the town enjoys the right of ſending deputies to every general diet, ordinary and extraordinary; whereas the biſhop does not poſſeſs the ſame privilege.

The language of the country is a kind of provincial German; but, as the territory borders upon the principality of Neuchatel, the inhabitants ſpeak alſo a kind of corrupted French. They are a very active and induſtrious people: ſeveral manufactures are eſtabliſhed in the town, which, conſidering its ſize, carries on a tolerable trade.

I have often had occaſion to obſerve, that the common people of Switzerland are far more intelligent than the ſame rank of men in any other country. Accordingly, I invited laſt night my landlord of the Crown inn to ſup with me; and found him by no means diſpoſed to be a ſilent gueſt. He gave me a long account of the late ceremony, when the citizens did homage to their new biſhop. I was pleaſed to hear him expatiate, with all the enthuſiaſm of national pride, upon the beauty and grandeur of the ſcene; the magnificence of the proceſſion; the number of ſpectators, as well ſtrangers as natives, who were aſſembled; together with the entertainments and balls that were given upon that occaſion. By the lofty terms in which he ſpoke of this proceſſion, you would have imagined, at leaſt, that he had been deſcribing the coronation of the emperor of Germany, or the king of France: and, in truth, to an inhabitant of Bienne, whoſe government is adminiſtered without the leaſt degree of external pomp, and where luxury has as yet made but little progreſs, the ceremony muſt have appeared a very ſtriking ſpectacle. My hoſt's narrative recalled to my remembrance the accounts of thoſe antient feudal ſovereignties, when the great vaſſals of the crown did homage to their liege lord; and, while in *terms* they promiſed him unlimited obedience, maintained, in *fact*, every eſſential of independence.

I have juſt been amuſing myſelf in ſome pleaſant walks, that lie by the ſide of the lake, which is here prettily ſkirted with country houſes. In my way I paſſed over a plain between the town and the lake, which the Sovereign Council, by a kind of agrarian law that does honour to the legiſlature, lately allotted, in diſtinct portions, to each burgher, for his own particular uſe: it is entirely laid out in little kitchen-gardens. The general government, indeed, of this miniature ſtate, is well adminiſtered. It has lately adopted the liberal policy of conferring the burgherſhip at an eaſy rate: a wiſe regulation, which cannot fail of increaſing the population of the town, and extending its commerce.

I know your ſentiments much too well, my dear ſir, to apologize for calling your attention in the preſent inſtance, as in ſome others, to theſe diminutive commonwealths. The various modifications of government, into which civil ſociety is divided, is a ſpeculation that will always afford matter both of entertainment and reflection, to a philoſophic mind: and I am perſuaded, that you conſider the meaneſt ſpot of this globe conſecrated by liberty, to be an object worthy, not only of your curioſity, but your veneration. I am, &c.

LETTER 20.

The Town and Canton of Soleure—Detail of the Government—Antient and New Burghers—Aſſembly of the Roſengarten.

THE direct road from Baſle to Soleure lies through the midſt of the Jura mountains, along the romantic vale of Balſtal, remarkable for its richneſs and fertility: and though the country is in general exceedingly rocky, yet in many places it is highly cultivated.

The road from Bienne to Soleure traverſes a well-cultivated valley, watered by the Aar, at the foot of a piked ridge, which forms a branch of mount Jura; its ſides, from the bottom to the ſummit, are ſo embrowned with overhanging foreſts of pine and fir, as to exhibit only occaſional intervals of naked rock, remains of torrents, and a few ſolitary ſpecks of paſture, and are ſo ſteep as, within the extent of five leagues, ſcarcely to diſplay the appearance of a ſingle houſe, or a trace of the ſlighteſt foot-way. Near Soleure this chain of the Jura, called *Weiſſenſtein*, abruptly diminiſhes in height, becomes gradually ſloping, and is checkered to its very ſummit with fields of corn and paſture.

Soleure is pleaſantly ſituated upon the Aar, which here expands its banks and opens into a fine and broad river. I will not exert the privilege of a traveller, and tell you, what ſome extravagant antiquarians do not ſcruple to aſſert, that Soleure was built by the patriarch Abraham; but you will have no difficulty, perhaps, in believing what others maintain, that it was one of the twelve towns which were deſtroyed upon the emigration of the original inhabitants into Gaul: But at what time, and upon whatſoever occaſion, its deſtruction happened; it appears probable, from a great number of inſcriptions, medals, and other antiquities, which have been found in the neighbourhood, that it was re-peopled by a Roman colony; and it certainly was a Roman fortification, as its antient appellation, *Caſtrum Salodurenſe*, neceſſarily implies.

Little more of its hiſtory is known, during that period of ignorance and barbariſm which ſucceeded the downfal of the Roman empire, than that it was ſacked and deſtroyed by thoſe northern nations, who over-ran the greateſt part of Europe. From the time of its re-eſtabliſhment, until its admiſſion into the Helvetic Confederacy in 1481, its ſtate was ſimilar to that of many other imperial towns, which acquired a gradual acceſſion of territory, and after various ſtruggles finally ſecured to themſelves an abſolute independence.

Soleure is a ſmall but extremely neat town, and is ſurrounded by regular ſtone fortifications, erected in the beginning of the preſent century; theſe walls encloſe a circumference of ſcarcely more than fifty ſquare acres, and, including the ſuburbs, contain about four thouſand ſouls. Among the moſt remarkable objects of curioſity in the town is the new church of St. Urs, which was begun in 1762, and finiſhed in 1772. It is a noble edifice, of whitiſh-grey ſtone, drawn from the neighbouring quarries, which admits a poliſh, and is a ſpecies of rude marble. The lower part of the building is of the Corinthian, the upper of the Compoſite order: the façade, which conſiſts of a portico, ſurmounted by an elegant tower, preſents itſelf finely at the extremity of the principal ſtreet. Pizoni was the architect, and the expence amounted to at leaſt £. 80,000; a conſiderable ſum for ſo ſmall a republic, whoſe revenues ſcarcely ſurpaſs £. 12,000 *per annum*. The interior is ſimple yet elegant, and decorated with a few modern paintings of inconſiderable merit; of which the moſt eſteemed is the laſt ſupper, by Corvi, a Roman artiſt. A picture by Rubens and his ſcholars, in the church of the Cordeliers, and one by Le Sueur, in that of the Capuchins, deſerve perhaps to be noticed by the traveller, who is fond of the fine arts. The town-houſe is not in itſelf worthy of obſervation, but is mentioned only as being the place of meeting for the Great Council and Senate.

The public priſon, newly conſtructed, is a ſolid edifice of ſtone, and is well adapted to the purpoſe of the building; the priſoners being confined in ſeparate cells. Although the penal laws are ſevere in theory, yet the judicial ſentences, in criminal affairs, are ſo remarkably mild, that a priſoner, on his acquittal, wrote the following inſcription on the wall of his cell: "He who is

" inclined to rob, and eſcape hanging, let him " rob in the canton of Soleure."

The public library deſerves to be mentioned, not for the number or rarity of the volumes, but for the literary zeal of the Abbé Herman, canon of the cathedral, to whom it owes its origin. On my firſt viſit to this town, in 1776, there was no public collection of books; but a few years ago that ingenious eccleſiaſtic amaſſed about four hundred volumes from his own and his friends ſtock, obtained from government an apartment in the town-houſe, where he depoſited them, and requeſted to be appointed librarian, but without a ſalary. His petition being granted, he continued to augment his little collection; and from this ſmall beginning has increaſed it already to eleven thouſand books, among which are above a hundred and fifty printed in the fifteenth century. At the two extremities of the room are inſcribed the names of the benefactors to this library. As yet there is no fund eſtabliſhed for the ſupport or augmentation of this collection.

The Abbé has alſo begun to form a cabinet of medals; which, though at preſent extremely ſmall, will increaſe like the library. He pointed out to me a very rare medal, that was diſcovered in digging the foundation for the new cathedral. It is in bronze, of the middle ſize. On one ſide is the head of Septimius Severus, with the following inſcription, *L. Septimius Severus Pius Aug. P·M·Tr·P·xviii·Coſ·iii·P·P·* On the reverſe, a figure ſitting, before it a prow of a ſhip, and a genius or little boy. Great merit is due to the Abbé for having given birth to this collection, at firſt alone and unſupported, and in ſo diſintereſted a manner, as his income does not exceed £. 60 *per annum*; and in a town where literature is not much encouraged. This learned eccleſiaſtic is now employed in writing an account of Soleure at the period of the Reformation; and is collecting ample materials for a complete hiſtory of the canton.

With reſpect to natural hiſtory, the only cabinet in the town is that formed by Senator Wallier: it is a ſmall collection, but well choſen, and particularly intereſting to the naturaliſt who travels into theſe parts, becauſe the ingenious collector has chiefly confined himſelf to the minerals and petrifactions of the canton.

The circumjacent country is exceedingly pleaſing and diverſified, and exhibits ſeveral points of view, which are as agreeable as wild, and as pleaſing as romantic. Among theſe we were particularly ſtruck with the ſituation of the hermitage called des Croix, about half a mile from the town, near the ſtone quarry: it is a moſt agreeable receſs at the extremity of a ſmall wood, and between two ridges of bare perpendicular rocks, watered by a lively ſtream; one extremity is cloſed by a ſmall wood, and the other opens into fertile grounds backed by the dark Jura. Among the villas, in the environs, remarkable for their poſition, may be mentioned Ricaberg, built by Mr. de Vigur; it ſtands at the bottom of a gentle hill, declining towards the winding Aar, and commands a view of Soleure, half hid by the intervening trees; and Bleikenberg, belonging to Major de Roll, ſituated amid waving grounds divided into encloſures, ſimilar to the fertile counties of England; the dark Jura riſing like the highlands of Scotland; and at a diſtance the ſublime alps, which characteriſe this romantic country.

The canton of Soleure, which holds the eleventh rank in the Helvetic Confederacy, ſtretches partly through the plain, and partly along the chains of the Jura, and contains about 50,000 ſouls, including the inhabitants of the capital. The ſoil is, for the moſt part, exceedingly fertile in corn, and thoſe diſtricts which lie within the Jura, abound in excellent paſtures. The trade, both of the town and of the canton, is of little value, although they are very commodiouſly ſituated for an extenſive commerce. It is divided into eleven diſtricts or bailliages, called Interior and Exterior; the former are governed by bailifs, who are ſenators, and remain in the towns: the latter, by bailifs drawn from the members of the Great Council, who reſide in their bailliages.

The following is a liſt of the bailliages, with their average annual value; the four firſt are interior, the remainder exterior.

Buckegberg	£. 166	Beckburgh	£. 750
Kriegſetten	- 146	Goeſgen	- 500
Laeberen, or Grenche	- 83	Olten -	- 333
		Dorneck	- 834
Flamenthal	- 62	Tierſtein	- 417
Falkenſtein	- 546	Gilgenberg	- 375

The inhabitants of the canton are Catholics, excepting thoſe in the bailliage of Buckegberg, who profeſs the Reformed religion. In ſpiritual affairs, the Catholics depend on three biſhops: the greateſt part of the capital, the bailliages of Laeberen and Flamenthal, are in the dioceſe of the biſhop of Lauſanne, reſident at Friburgh; the remainder of the capital, the bailliage of Kriegſtetten, and the villages in the bailliage of Olten, in that of the biſhop of Conſtance; while the other bailliages, and the town of Olten, depend on the biſhop of Baſle. But neither of theſe biſhops can iſſue any ordinance, or even viſit their dioceſes, without the approbation of the Senate. There are two chapters in this canton; one at Soleure, founded, in 930, by Queen Bertha, widow of Rhodolph II. King of Burgundy, is compoſed of a provoſt, whoſe ſalary amounts to £. 360 *per annum*; and of eleven canons, each of whom enjoy a revenue of £. 160. The provoſt is choſen by the Senate, and the canons are appointed alternately by the Pope and Senate. The other chapter, of Schœnenwerth, founded by the antient counts of Falkenſtein, conſiſts of a provoſt and five canons, nominated by the Senate. The annual ſalary of the provoſt is £. 125, and of each canon £. 100. There are alſo one abbey of Benedictines, four convents, and three nunneries: the revenues of theſe religious houſes amount to £. 2,250.

The principal charitable inſtitutions are, an hoſpital at Soleure, and another at Olten, for the reception of burghers, ſubjects, and foreigners; the foundation of Thurigan, for old perſons of both ſexes, belonging to the burgherſhip; a foundling hoſpital for orphans, and for children of poor burghers; and the hoſpital of St. Catharine, for the inſane and incurables.

The only perſons in the canton of Soleure, who profeſs the Reformed religion, are thoſe who inhabit the bailliage of Buckegberg. In eccleſiaſtical affairs, the inhabitants, though ſubject to Soleure, are under the protection of Berne. Formerly this complication of political and religious intereſts created frequent miſunderſtandings between the two cantons, but matters were amicably and finally adjuſted, on the 18th of November 1681, at the treaty of Winingen. The inhabitants take the oath of fidelity, every third year, to the government of Soleure; but if aggrieved in their religious eſtabliſhment, can have recourſe to Berne. The Senate of Berne nominates to the vacant benefices, but the prieſts are under the neceſſity of obtaining the confirmation of the chapter of Soleure. A deputy from Berne preſents the new miniſter to his pariſhioners; but the bailif is obliged to be preſent at this ceremony, as deputy from the republic of Soleure. Berne enjoys alſo ſupreme juriſdiction in criminal affairs. If a criminal is arreſted for any capital offence, he is tried by the bailif of Buckegberg, and the jury of the bailliage: and, if condemned to death, he is delivered for execution to Berne, provided that republic defrays the expence of the trial. Soleure enjoys all the other rights of ſovereignty; ſuch as the power of levying taxes, appeals in the laſt reſort; and even decides all matrimonial and eccleſiaſtical concerns, with this proviſo, that the deciſion ſhall be regulated according to the articles of the treaty of Winingen. Among the natives in the canton, ſeveral inhabiting the bailliages of Thierſtein and Gildenberg were ſerfs, but, in 1785, their ſervitude, ſo contrary to the principles of that equal liberty which pervades this country, was aboliſhed, to the honour of the preſent government.

The canton furniſhes France with two companies for the Swiſs guards, and ſeveral companies in the different marching regiments, according to the capitulation concluded between the King of France and the Catholic cantons, and their co-allies, in 1764, for the term of twenty-five years. It has alſo a regiment in the Spaniſh ſervice; of which the colonel and the companies of fuſileers can be filled only by the *antient* burghers.

With reſpect to the militia of the canton, all the ſubjects, from the age of fifteen to that of ſixty, are enrolled into ſix regiments, forming altogether about 8000 men, excluſive of 240 dragoons, and the corps of artillery, amounting to 600 men. The colonel of each regiment is always a ſenator, and the major a member of the Great Council, who is uſually an officer retired from foreign ſervice; the captains are either members of the Great Council or *antient* burghers; the firſt lieutenants are uſually *antient* burghers, while the rank of ſecond lieutenants and enſigns is uſually filled by the principal peaſants.

The militia are aſſembled and reviewed in May and September; and in the ſpring and autumn are exerciſed in their reſpective villages by the under-lieutenants and enſigns. According to a plan of defence, regulated in 1668, between the members of the Helvetic Confederacy, the canton of Soleure is bound to furniſh 600 for its firſt contingency; for this ſupply 100 men, together with officers, are annually ſelected from each of the ſix regiments, who are to hold themſelves in readineſs to march at a moment's warning. In caſe of neceſſity, this contingency may be doubled or tripled in the ſame manner. The burghers are incorporated in the company of fuſileers, and exerciſe themſelves on Sundays and ſaints days, after divine ſervice, by ſhooting at marks: government furniſhes powder and ball, and diſtributes prizes to the beſt markſmen. The remaining inhabitants of the capital and environs, who are not burghers, form a ſeparate body, commanded by the captain of the town: they are alſo occaſionally exerciſed, and mount guard on the day of St. John the Baptiſt, when the *Roſengarten*, or the general meeting of the burghers, is aſſembled.

The ſovereign power reſides in the Great Council, which, comprizing the Senate or Little Council of thirty-ſix, conſiſts of a hundred and two members, choſen by the Senate, in equal proportions, from the eleven tribes or companies into which the *antient* burghers are diſtributed: and in all inſtances the new member is taken from the company to which the laſt member belonged.

The prerogatives of the Great Council are, to enact and abrogate laws; to explain any obſcure parts of the conſtitution; and even make alterations in the form of government, ſhould the circumſtances require it; to levy taxes; to declare war and conclude peace; to contract alliances; to receive appeals in criminal cauſes from the burghers of the capital; and in civil proceſſes, above the ſum of 100 Swiſs livres, or £. 6. 3*s.*; to confer the *new* burgherſhip; to elect the treaſurer, or the fourth chief of the republic, from the antient eleven ſenators; to nominate to the ſeven exterior bailliages, and to the four Italian governments of Lugano, Locarno, Mendriſio, and Valmaggia, when the turn of appointing to thoſe governments belongs to Soleure; to chooſe the deputies for the diet of Frauenfield, and thoſe for any extraordinary meetings of the Helvetic Confederacy; though in both theſe caſes it is the cuſtom to appoint a ſenator, and uſually either of the four chiefs, the reigning advoyer excepted, who is not permitted to be abſent during the year of his adminiſtration.

There are generally a few ſupernumerary members in the Great Council, which circumſtance proceeds from the method of appointing the bailifs. On the nomination of a bailif, his ſeat in the Great Council being eſteemed vacant, is on the next day filled up by a member of the ſame company in which he is inſcribed. At the concluſion of his bailliage he again takes his ſeat, preſerving his antient rank, though conſidered as a ſupernumerary, until one of the ſix members of his tribe makes a vacancy. The qualifications for a reception into the Great Council are, that the candidate ſhall be twenty years of age, an *antient* burgher, and member of the ſame tribe in which the vacancy happens: and with reſpect to the laſt-mentioned qualification, it is neceſſary that the candidate, if inſcribed in a company different from that of his father, muſt, according to a decree paſſed in 1764, have been a member of that company during a full year.

The Great Council aſſembles ordinarily once every month; and extraordinarily, on being convened by the Senate.

The Senate, or Little Council, a conſtituent part of the Great Council, is compoſed of the two advoyers or chiefs of the republic, who annually alternate; the chancellor or ſecretary of ſtate, who has no vote either in the Senate or Great Council; and thirty-three ſenators drawn from the remaining ſixty-ſix members of the Great Council, in equal proportion from the eleven tribes. The appointment and annual confirmation of the advoyers and banneret by the aſſembly of burghers, as well as the confirmation of the ſenators and members of the Great Council, in their ſeveral charges, will be hereafter deſcribed, under the article of *Roſengarten.*

The thirty-three ſenators who, in conjunction with the two advoyers and chancellor, form the Senate, are divided into eleven ſeniors, and twenty-two juniors. From the eleven ſeniors the four principal magiſtrates are always choſen, the two advoyers, the banneret, and treaſurer. Upon a vacancy among the eleven, the right of election, though ſaid to reſide in the twenty-three juniors, is always exerciſed according to ſeniority: the moſt antient in rank among the three junior counſellors, who are of the ſame tribe to which the late member belonged, preſents himſelf of courſe, and is immediately appointed, or rather confirmed, by the twenty-three juniors. Upon the death or promotion of one among the latter, his place is immediately filled up by the two advoyers and eleven ſeniors.

The Senate is entruſted with the executive power, and with the care of the police; has ſupreme and final juriſdiction in all criminal cauſes, thoſe only excepted in which a burgher of the capital is concerned, who may appeal from their deciſion to the Great Council; and gives judgment in all civil proceſſes not exceeding the value of a hundred Swiſs livres.

The Senate convokes the Great Council; examines and digeſts all affairs before they are laid before that ſupreme aſſembly; fills up the vacant places therein; and in their own body; either directly or indirectly, nominates to almoſt all the important charges of the republic; appoints to the principal eccleſiaſtical benefices; receives all appeals, in the firſt inſtance, from the inferior courts of juſtice; judges all civil cauſes in the laſt reſort, whoſe value does not exceed a certain ſum; has ſupreme and final juriſdiction over all criminal affairs, excepting thoſe which concern the burghers of the capital.

The qualifications of a ſenator are, that he ſhall be twenty-four years of age, a member of the Great Council, and drawn from the ſame company to which the laſt ſenator belonged. This body aſſembles three times in the week, and extraordinarily, as often as occaſion requires; and it is convoked by the reigning advoyer. The ſalaries of the ſenators are as follows;

The reigning advoyer, about —	£. 363	
The advoyer out of office —	137	10
Senior ſenator — —	46	
Chancellor — — —	208	
Attorney General, including his ſalary of ſenator — —	100	
Junior ſenator — —	37	10

Government draws its principal revenues, which do not amount to more than £. 12,500 *per ann.* from the following ſources. 1. A tax, called the tax on fortifications; laid on the funds of the tribes and monaſteries in the town, and on thoſe of pariſhes in the bailliages. 2. Tythes, and *rentes foncieres* belonging to the ſtate. 3. Tolls. 4. Exciſe on wine. 5. Intereſt of money placed out in the canton and in foreign countries. 6. Monopoly of ſalt. 7. Revenues from the bailliages. 8. Subſidy from France; about £. 1108. 9. Sundry ſmall ſources, ſuch as demeſnes, eſtates, ſalaries of vacant benefices, &c.

The principal departments of government are, 1. The tribunals; which compriſe the inferior courts of juſtice, and the Secret Council, conſiſting of ſeven members, namely, the two advoyers, the banneret, the treaſurer, the firſt ſenior ſenator, the chancellor, and the attorney-general; in caſe any of theſe perſons ſhould be abſent, their places are ſupplied by the antient ſenators, according to ſeniority. 2. The boards of war. 3. Of thoſe rights, called *droits regaliens*. 4. For finances, agriculture, and public buildings. 5. For the police. 6. For eccleſiaſtical affairs, charitable inſtitutions, and ſchools.

The burghers of Soleure are divided into *antient* and *new*; the former of whom are alone capable of being elected members of the Great Council, or of enjoying any ſhare in the adminiſtration of affairs. The origin of this diſtinction is to be dated from the year 1681, from the following cauſes. Several foreign families, which ſettled at Soleure and obtained the right of burgherſhip, being admitted into the Great Council, gave umbrage to thoſe antient and illuſtrious families, whoſe anceſtors had, by their valour and prudence, laid the foundation of the republic. In order to prevent the farther participation of honours and emoluments, to which they conceived themſelves ſolely entitled, the Great Council iſſued an edict, in 1681, that thoſe families only, which at that epoch enjoyed the rights of burgherſhip, ſhould be excluſively qualified to hold any office of government; and that, for the future, no perſon ſhould be admitted to that right, until the families then exiſting ſhould be reduced to twenty-five. It was at the ſame time enacted, that theſe families and their deſcendants ſhould be diſtinguiſhed by the name of *antient* burghers, and that thoſe, who from that period ſhould be received into the burgherſhip, ſhould be called *new* burghers. It was alſo added, that any burgher who ſhould make any propoſition contrary to this law, ſhould be baniſhed from the canton, and that his goods ſhould be confiſcated.

Beſide the excluſive privilege of being entitled to any office of goverment, the *antient* burghers enjoy alſo the right of being ſolely appointed canons in the chapters of Soleure and Schœnenworth, and of holding any eccleſiaſtical benefice in the gift of the Senate. But as there are at preſent a great deficiency of clergymen among the *antient* burghers, it will probably ſoon be thought neceſſary to diſpenſe with the law on this article, and to permit the *new* burghers, and every ſubject of the canton, to be candidates for vacant livings.

There are about eighty-five families who poſſeſs the right of *antient* burgherſhip, and of theſe, about thirty-four of the moſt illuſtrious, ſupply the members of the Great Council, and fill all the various departments of government.

The rights of the *new* burghers conſiſt in nominating and annually confirming the advoyer, the banneret, and *grand ſautier*, or lieutenant of the police; but, as they always chooſe thoſe perſons, who are ſelected by the Senate, as they exerciſe this privilege in conjunction with the *antient* burghers, and as, by the edict of 1681; they muſt retire from the aſſembly if there ſhould be any difficulty or oppoſition; this right of election may be conſidered as little more than a mere formality. In all other inſtances, excepting in thoſe concerns which relate to government, the *new* burghers enjoy the ſame privilege as the *antient* burghers; ſuch as freedom of trade and commerce; of being proprietors of houſes and land in the capital and its diſtrict. They are alſo entitled to hold ſuch eccleſiaſtical benefices as are in the gift of the chapters and of individuals.

The burghers, both *antient* and *new*, are diſtributed into eleven tribes or companies, each whereof furniſhes three ſenators and ſix members of the Great Council. Every perſon may chooſe the company into which he inſcribes his name; but having once inſcribed himſelf, he cannot change it. For the purpoſe of obtaining a place as ſoon as poſſible in the government, a young noble ſelects that company in which there is ſoon likely to be a vacancy; but if he fixes upon one different from that in which his father is incorporated, he muſt have been received a member during a whole year, before he can be a candidate for admiſſion into the Great Council.

The general aſſembly of *antient* and *new* burghers, called *Roſengarten*, which meets on St. John the Baptiſt's day, for the purpoſe of electing or confirming the charges of advoyer, banneret, and *grand ſautier*, is a ceremony which deſerves to be deſcribed for its ſingularity; particularly as it will alſo convey to you ſome idea of thoſe annual elections, or rather confirmations, of the principal officers, which take place in moſt of theſe ariſtocratical ſtates.

This aſſembly is held in the church of the Cordeliers, and is denominated *Roſengarten*, or Garden of Roſes; either becauſe a noſegay of flowers, which every burgher carries in his hand, was formerly compoſed of roſes; or, as others pretend, becauſe this meeting uſed to be convened in the garden of the Cordeliers, which is ſaid to have been called the Garden of Roſes. But, inſtead of ſearching into fanciful etymologies, I ſhall deſcribe what paſſes at this annual meeting.

About ſix in the morning, the advoyer out of office, the ſenators, members of the Great Council, and the *antient* and *new* burghers, aſſemble in their reſpective companies. After the repetition of certain ſignals, the reigning advoyer, accompanied by the chancellor, the ſecretary of the finances, and ſeveral other officers of ſtate, repair, with drums beating and trumpets ſounding, from the town-houſe to the church of the Cordeliers; where, after preſenting his offering upon the altar of the Virgin, he ſeats himſelf on a throne, which is placed near the altar. Soon afterwards the ſenators and remaining members of the Great Council make their appearance at the head of their reſpective tribes; and having preſented their offerings, keep the ſame rank and ſtations, which they maintained on entering the church; the advoyer out of office excepted, who places himſelf near his colleague on the throne. At the concluſion of maſs accompanied with muſic, all but the burghers retire, and the doors of the church are cloſed. The advoyer, with his ſcepter in his hand, pronounces an harangue; then delivering up the ſcepter and ſeals, reſigns his dignity, and receives the thanks of the aſſembly, by the mouth of the attorney-general, for his zeal and attention during the year of his government. Next follow, in the ſame manner, the reſignations of the banneret and of the attorney-general; the former of whom is thanked, in the name of the aſſembly, by the attorney-general, and the latter by the advoyer who has juſt reſigned.

This ceremony being finiſhed, the two advoyers, bannerets, attorney-general, and antient ſenators, retire from the choir to another part of the church; and the chancellor ſummoning the junior ſenators into the choir, reads over the name of each antient ſenator, and of the attorney-general, and demands, if the junior ſenators are pleaſed to confirm them in their charges for another year. This being obtained, the chancellor and junior ſenators repair to the aſſembly in the body of the church, where the chancellor reads over the names of the ſenior ſenators and attorney-general confirmed by the juniors, and demands the approbation of the whole aſſembly of burghers. Upon this, the advoyer who has juſt reſigned, and all the ſenators, except the advoyer out of office and the banneret, come into the church, and take their reſpective oaths. The chancellor then acquainting the aſſembly, that they muſt proceed to the election of the reigning advoyer; the advoyer, who has juſt reſigned, propoſes his colleague: the officer of ſtate, called *Grand Sautier*, cries out, "Let all thoſe who chooſe to elect the right noble A. B. the reigning advoyer, hold up their hands under oath;" and immediately informing the advoyer of his election, the latter comes into the church, takes the oath from the chancellor, and receives the oath from the *Grand Sautier*. The election of the banneret is made in the ſame manner: the ſame perſon, who had juſt reſigned his office, being propoſed to the aſſembly by the reigning advoyer, and accepted, gives his hand to the reigning advoyer, as he never takes the oath but in time of war. The *grand ſautier* then retiring, is propoſed and recommended by the reigning advoyer, and re-entering the church, he alſo takes the oath to government.

At the end of theſe elections, ſeveral decrees of the Great Council are read, and particularly that which relates to the right of *antient* burgherſhip, and the election of the advoyer, banneret, and *grand ſautier*; by which it is enacted, that in caſe any oppoſition ſhould be made to the regular order of appointment, the *new* burghers ſhall retire from the aſſembly, and the election be veſted ſolely in the *antient* burghers.

The ſame magiſtrates are always re-elected or confirmed in their ſeveral places: the advoyer out of office is nominated reigning advoyer; on the death of either of the advoyers, the banneret is of courſe appointed to the vacant office, and is ſucceeded by the treaſurer, only undergoing the formality of a nomination.

At the concluſion of this ceremony, the reigning advoyer, at the head of the Senate, paſſes through two lines of troops under arms to the town-houſe, where the firſt magiſtrate and the antient ſenators confirm the junior ſenators; after which he returns to his own houſe, accompanied by the Senate and members of the Great Council, and is complimented, firſt by the banneret, and afterwards by the chancellor.

From the conſideration of this detail we may conclude, that thoſe authors have erred who call the government of Soleure ariſto-democratical, for it is certainly a moſt complete ariſtocracy: inaſmuch as the ſupreme government reſides in the Great Council, the members whereof are excluſively taken from the *antient* burghers; as there are only eighty-one families which enjoy that right, and no more can be added until they are reduced to twenty-five; as of theſe ſcarcely more than thirty enjoy any ſhare in the government; and laſtly, as the election and annual confirmation of the principal magiſtrates is confined to the *antient* burghers, if there ſhould be any oppoſition in the general aſſembly called Roſengarten. The government, however, under whatſoever title it may be claſſed, is mild and equitable; and the people are tranquil and contented.

LETTER 21.

Treaties with France — Reflections on Foreign Service.

THE French embaſſador to the Helvetic body reſides in Soleure, and diſtributes thoſe annual penſions which the king his maſter has ſtipulated by treaty to pay to the Catholic cantons. Louis the Eleventh was the firſt French monarch who employed Swiſs troops; and granted ſubſidies to the ſtates, which have ſince been conſiderably augmented by his ſucceſſors. The perpetual alliance which Francis the Firſt concluded with the Swiſs cantons, ſoon after the battle of Marignano, is conſidered as the baſis of every ſubſequent treaty between the two contracting powers. Several of that king's ſucceſſors derived conſiderable advantages from the Swiſs infantry in their ſervice: they aided Henry the Fourth in eſtabliſhing himſelf upon the throne of his anceſtors; and aſſiſted both Louis the Thirteenth and his ſon, in the ſeveral wars in which they were engaged. No troops indeed have ever been more juſtly diſtinguiſhed for their fidelity, valour, and excellent diſcipline.

The general alliance between France and the whole Helvetic union, ratified by Louis the Fourteenth in 1663, was to remain in force during the joint lives of that monarch, and his ſon the dauphin, and for eight years after the death of either. Towards the end of his reign, when Louis, on account of his ſon's death, propoſed to renew the treaty in his and his ſucceſſor's name, the Proteſtant cantons refuſed their conſent: and it was concluded only with the Catholic cantons, and the republic of the Vallais.

This alliance differed from the former treaties in the following very eſſential articles: It ſtipulated that, if the kingdom of France ſhould be invaded, the contracting republics ſhould permit an additional levy to be raiſed at his majeſty's expence, not exceeding ſixteen thouſand

ſand men; that if the Helvetic body, or any particular canton, ſhould be attacked by a foreign power, the king engaged to aſſiſt them with as many forces as ſhould be judged neceſſary; and finally, that if any diſſenſions ſhould ariſe between the contracting cantons, his majeſty ſhould, at the requeſt of the aggrieved party, try all gentle methods of effecting a reconciliation; but if theſe ſhould fail, the king agreed, both in his own name, and in that of his ſucceſſor, to compel the aggreſſor to abide by the treaties concluded between the cantons and their allies. This laſt article, as it ſeemed, in ſome meaſure, to authorize the interference of the king of France with the politics of Switzerland, appeared dangerous to many of the Swiſs, and inconſiſtent with that abſolute independence, which they had hitherto prized above all other advantages.

France having long in vain attempted to perſuade the Proteſtant cantons to accede to the alliance, that a general treaty with the whole Helvetic body might be renewed, at length, after much oppoſition and repeated negociations, ſucceeded in effecting the meaſure. This important league was concluded at Soleure in May 1777, between the king of France on one ſide, and the thirteen cantons and their allies on the other, to continue in force during fifty years. By this treaty it is agreed, that if the kingdom of France ſhould be invaded, the cantons and their allies ſhall furniſh an additional levy of ſix thouſand men; and if the cantons, or any of their allies, ſhould be attacked, the king, if required, engages to furniſh them, at his own expence, with ſuch ſuccours as may be deemed neceſſary.

That article of the treaty with the Catholic cantons in 1715, which related to the mediation of the king, if any diſputes ſhould ariſe between the thirteen cantons, is very properly and wiſely omitted.

Before this alliance, none of the Proteſtant ſtates received any penſions from France: but by the ſixteenth article, the Proteſtants of Glarus and Appenzel, and the town of Bienne, have agreed to accept *les argents de paix et d'alliance*, as theſe ſubſidies are here called. The acceptance of penſions derogates greatly from that ſpirit of abſolute independence, which all the Proteſtant cantons and ſtates of Switzerland have hitherto affected to profeſs; and it would have reflected much greater honour on the Swiſs nation, if the whole body had imitated Zuric, Berne, Baſle, and Schaffhauſen, in forming the league upon terms of perfect equality, and rejecting the proffered penſions, which give an air of venality to their treaties with France.

It has long been a controverted queſtion, whether Switzerland gains or loſes by furniſhing, according to the tenor of her alliance with France, Sardinia, Naples, and Holland, ſuch numbers of her natives to ſerve in foreign armies. That the fidelity of theſe troops is ſo well recogniſed, as to be choſen to be the life-guards of ſeveral ſovereigns, is a circumſtance which undoubtedly redounds much to the honour of the national character: but, on the other hand, to traffic with the blood of ſubjects, and, for paltry ſubſidies, to fight the battle of any king, in any cauſe, ſeems to betray a mercenary ſpirit, uncontrouled by conſiderations of juſtice and humanity. It has been urged, that if Switzerland did not furniſh theſe ſupplies to foreign nations, ſhe would be over-ſtocked with inhabitants; and that the natives would be obliged, like the northern hives of old, to emigrate for ſubſiſtence: for in many parts there is no commerce, and the mountainous tracts cannot ſupply ſufficient proviſion for ſuch a numerous people. In reply to this reaſoning, it may be alleged, that the Swiſs do not uſe all the reſources in their power: commerce might be more generally cultivated and encouraged; as there is no part of Switzerland far removed from the principal rivers and great lakes, moſt of which have a direct communication with the ſea.

But, to be convinced that they have not exhauſted all the advantages to which they might reſort, let them look back on antient Greece, and the immenſe populouſneſs in ſo confined a country; or, what is more open to their obſervation, let them conſider the preſent ſtate of the United Provinces, and the abundance which thoſe induſtrious people enjoy on a tract of land ſnatched from an element perpetually reclaiming its prior occupancy. But the Swiſs need not be reminded of antient or foreign examples: Geneva and St. Gallen are, for their extent, exceedingly populous; and yet the natural productions of their lands are by no means ſufficient to ſupport all the inhabitants. Appenzel and Vallengin are entirely mountainous; nevertheleſs both thoſe diſtricts are remarkably well peopled, and derive, by means of commerce and induſtry, all the neceſſaries of life in great plenty. Indeed Switzerland is ſo far from being over-ſtocked with people, that in moſt of the great towns there is a manifeſt deficiency of inhabitants; and in ſeveral parts of their country, hands are frequently wanting for the common purpoſes of agriculture.

Theſe reflections ſeem to prove the miſtaken policy of Switzerland, in letting out her troops to foreign ſtates. On the contrary, many circumſtances may be alleged in its favour. This practice has tended to keep up the military ſpirit of the Swiſs, even during a ſtate of profound peace, which has now continued, with few interruptions, for three hundred years. The ſeveral cantons not only have in conſtant reſerve, and without the leaſt expence, a body of well-diſciplined forces, which they can recal at a moment's warning; but it becomes the intereſt, for that reaſon, of thoſe foreign powers, whom they furniſh with men, not to foment any diviſions among them, which might render the preſence of their troops neceſſary at home. Add to this, that the privileges which the Swiſs enjoy in France, and the very advantageous articles, relating to commerce, ſecured to them in all their treaties, ſeem to ſtrengthen the argument for continuing their connections of this kind with that kingdom.

This argument, however, would be more concluſive, if thoſe privileges were ſtill preſerved in the ſame latitude as was granted by the ninth article of the Perpetual Peace concluded with Francis I. in 1516, and confirmed by ſeveral ſucceſſive treaties. But the caſe is far otherwiſe.

Theſe immunities have been gradually and almoſt imperceptibly violated: the Swiſs merchants were ſubjected to the poll-tax; and freſh duties, contrary to the tenor of their rights, were impoſed on their merchandiſe. During the adminiſtration of the Duke d'Aiguillon, the Swiſs complaining of theſe infractions; a negotiation was begun at Soleure with the French embaſſador, which produced, however, no other effect than a ſhort letter from the miniſter, declining, in the moſt poſitive manner, to redreſs the grievances, though founded on the faith of treaties.

On the late renovation of the Perpetual Peace, in 1777, it was expected that this matter of diſpute would be amicably adjuſted; and the Count de Vergennes inſinuated, that ſuch was the intention of the court of Verſailles. Many cantons, and particularly Zuric, were principally induced by theſe motives and theſe expectations to accede to the alliance; but not wholly truſting, however, to the promiſes of the French cabinet, it was inſiſted that an article explaining and confirming the ſaid privileges ſhould be inſerted in the new treaty. The miniſter, with his uſual addreſs, eluded a direct mention of the demanded rights; but, in order not to loſe the confidence of a nation, at a time when he moſt wiſhed to obtain it,

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the king engaged, by the 18th article, to *preſerve to the Swiſs thoſe privileges and advantages to which they had a legitimate right, and which they had hitherto enjoyed in France.* And the Swiſs agreed to poſtpone *the preciſe determination of the nature and extent of the ſaid privileges to future conferences, wherein thoſe matters ſhould be regulated with fidelity and equity.*

It muſt appear aſtoniſhing that the Swiſs ſhould be contented with ſo ambiguous a declaration; or could be led to believe, that the French court would preſerve to them their legitimate immunities, in the moment when that legitimacy was a ſubject of contention. The Helvetic body had ſoon occaſion to repent of their credulity. For, in 1781, the king of France iſſued an edict irrevocably ſubjecting the Swiſs, who poſſeſs lands in France, to the poll-tax, and to all the national imposts; and laid the ſame duties on their merchandiſe imported into France, as are paid by the merchants of other countries, cheeſe and linens excepted, which were taxed at a reduced value.

But a ſtill ſeverer blow was levelled againſt the Swiſs in 1786; when, notwithſtanding the expreſs reſervation granted in the Perpetual Peace, the importation of linens was prohibited in France. The prohibition of this branch of commerce, which furniſhed employment to ſo many hands in various parts of

Switzerland, particularly in the cantons of Zuric, Glarus, and Appenzel, and was almoſt the ſole reſource of the natives, ſpread a ſenſible alarm among the natives; but was not productive of any ſerious conſequences. After the firſt ſurpriſe and agitation were paſt, the induſtry of the Swiſs was not abated; and the linens found their way into France, either by contraband trade, or by contract with the French Eaſt India Company.

LETTER 22.

The Canton of Zug.

Zug, Auguſt 5.

WE yeſterday quitted Zuric *, and walked to Albis, a ſmall village about three leagues diſtant, ſituated near the ſummit of a mountain, much viſited by travellers, who are attracted by the variety and extent of the proſpect.

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* I have in this part arranged the preceding letters differently from the former editions, and according to the journal of my tour in 1785; though I did not at that time proceed from Soleure to Zuric, yet I have thought

We fortunately eſcaped a violent ſhower of rain, accompanied with a ſtorm of thunder and lightning, which had threatened for ſome time, and began immediately upon our arrival: but we were well houſed; and our hoſt gave us a good ſupper and an excellent bottle of Muſcat wine. We were abroad this morning by five, and had a very agreeable walk to this place; the weather, which had of late been very ſultry, being cooled by the lightning and rain. We paſſed over the field of battle at Cappel, where Zuingle was ſlain; regretting this inſtance of diſunion between the Swiſs republics, and lamenting the premature death of that great reformer, who was killed in the 48th year of his age. We purſued our journey through a pleaſant country, ſo thickly planted with fruit-trees, that I could hardly

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proper to reſume the order of my firſt journey in 1776, and to bring the reader back to Zuric, from whence I take my departure, as before, to Zug. The traveller who enters Switzerland at Schaffhauſen, and quits it at Geneva or Neuchatel, will perhaps find this itinerary from Zuric to Baſle, Bienne, Soleure, and thence to Berne and Lucerne, more convenient than that from Zuric immediately to Zug and Lucerne; while thoſe who quit Switzerland at Baſle will prefer the latter.

hardly diſtinguiſh any other ſort. Indeed, we had before remarked the prodigious number of thoſe trees in ſeveral other parts of Switzerland; the country being in many places almoſt a continued orchard.

Zug, the capital of this canton, ſtands delightfully upon the edge of a beautiful lake, in a fertile valley, abounding with corn, paſture, and wood. This canton formerly belonged to the Houſe of Auſtria; and continued faithful to that family, when the other neighbouring ſtates had formed themſelves into independent republics. As it lies between Zuric and Schweitz, the communication between thoſe two cantons was maintained with difficulty; and by this means frequent opportunities were afforded to the Houſe of Auſtria of invading and harraſſing the Swiſs. Under theſe circumſtances, the ſix allied cantons, in 1351, laid ſiege to Zug, which was reſolutely defended by the inhabitants; but as Albert duke of Auſtria was in no condition to aſſiſt them, the town at length ſurrendered upon the moſt honourable conditions. The generoſity of the conquerors was equal to the courage and magnanimity of the vanquiſhed: for, in conſequence of this ſubmiſſion, the canton of Zug was delivered from the yoke of a foreign maſter; obtained the moſt aſſured liberty and independence; and was admitted into the Helvetic Confederacy upon equal terms.

The government of this little canton is exceedingly complicated; and the inhabitants of the town have ſomewhat more influence, and enjoy a greater ſhare in the adminiſtration of affairs, than thoſe of the capital burghs in the five other democratical cantons. The ſupreme power reſides in the inhabitants of the four diſtricts of Zug, Bar, Egeri, and Meutzingen; who aſſemble yearly to enact laws, and to chooſe their magiſtrates. The Landamman, reciprocally elected from each of the four communities above-mentioned, is nominated by the ſuffrages of the whole collective diſtricts: he continues three years in office, when taken from Zug, and but two years when choſen from each of the three other diſtricts. The general adminiſtration of affairs is entruſted to the council of regency, compoſed of forty members: of whom thirteen are ſupplied by the diſtrict of Zug, and twenty-ſeven are ſelected equally from the three remaining communities. This council, as well as the Landamman, reſides always in the capital.

Oſwald, one of our old Britiſh kings, is the titular Saint of this place; and in the church is his ſtatue, with the following inſcription:

Sanctus Oſwaldus Rex Angliæ Patronus hujus Eccleſiæ.

This Oſwald * was a king of Northumberland in the ſeventh century; and is much renowned among the monkiſh writers for his chaſtity, piety, and power of working miracles. I have been endeavouring to diſcover the connection between a Britiſh king, under the heptarchy, and a ſmall canton of Switzerland; without reflecting, how fruitleſs is the attempt to give any reaſon for long-eſtabliſhed cuſtoms. In the church of Rome, ſaints are eaſily tranſplanted into any ſoil; and caprice, as well as ſuperſtition, may have inclined the inhabitants of Zug to adore a ſaint, whoſe name is barely known in his own country.

I am, &c.

LETTER 23.

The Town and Canton of Lucerne — General Pfiffer's Model.

WE took boat at Zug, and being rowed acroſs the lake (which is about three leagues long, and one broad) were landed at a village in the canton of Schweitz. From thence we walked to Kuſſnacht; and in our way paſſed by a ſmall chapel ſacred to William Tell, erected on the ſpot where, it is ſaid, he ſhot the Auſtrian governor. At Kuſſnacht, we embarked upon the lake of Lucerne; and were much ſtruck upon our approach with the fine ſituation of that town, and the noble amphitheatre of mountains, which border the lake.

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* See an account of this Oſwald, who was defeated and ſlain in 624, by Peuda, king of the Mercians, in Pennant's Tour to Wales, vol. i. p. 258.

Lucerne, originally ſubject to the Houſe of Auſtria, was expoſed to the inroads of Uri, Schweitz, and Underwalden, when thoſe cantons had ſecured their own liberty and independence. Her commerce to Italy was interrupted; her fairs unfrequented; and her citizens compelled to be continually under arms, in order to protect their territory from inceſſant depredations. Under theſe circumſtances, the Houſe of Auſtria imprudently loading the citizens with additional taxes, as exorbitant as they were unjuſt, Lucerne made her peace with the confederate cantons; and, having ſoon after expelled the Auſtrian party, entered into a perpetual alliance with Uri, Schweitz, and Underwalden, and became a member of the Helvetic union.

The acceſſion of Lucerne gave additional credit and power to the confederacy; and enabled it, in 1386, to reſiſt all the efforts of a great and implacable enemy. In that year, Leopold duke of Auſtria invaded the canton with a numerous army; when the combined troops gained a bloody victory at Sempach, in which Leopold loſt his life. In the accounts of this battle, an inſtance of private valour is recorded, which would have done honour even to a Grecian or a Roman name; and only requires the pen of a Thucydides or a Livy to equal in fame the exploits of the moſt admired heroes of antiquity. The Auſtrian army, far ſuperior in number, was drawn up in firm battalion, accoutred in heavy armour, and furniſhed with long pikes, which they preſented before them. The Swiſs troops were led to the attack in the form of a wedge, in order to open their way into the ranks of the enemy, and to break the ſolidity of the battalion. The Auſtrians, nevertheleſs, continuing for ſome time impenetrable; Arnold de Winkelried ruſhed alone upon the enemy to certain death; and, ſeizing as many pikes as he could graſp, endeavoured to force through the ranks: but he was killed in the attempt. His patriotic valour, however, was not exerted in vain: it inflamed the Swiſs with new courage, and taught the beſt method of penetrating into the battalion; which they at length effected, after the moſt deſperate efforts of invincible reſolution.

Leopold himſelf might have eſcaped, when his troops firſt began to give way; but, with a magnanimity worthy of a better fate, he determined, after having been a witneſs to the total rout of his army, not to ſurvive ſo ignominious a day: accordingly he ruſhed into the thickeſt of the enemy, and was ſlain. In the arſenal of this place are ſtill preſerved his armour, together with a large quantity of cords; with which, according to tradition, he intended to have bound the citizens of Lucerne. The keeper of the arſenal diſplayed them to us with the ſame kind of triumph, as the man, who ſhews the Tower of London, points out the chains that were taken on board of the Spaniſh armada; which Philip the Second is ſaid to have deſtined for the principal nobility of England.

The government of Lucerne is entirely ariſtocratical, or rather oligarchical. The ſovereign power reſides in the Council of one hundred, compriſing the Senate or Little Council. The former is the nominal ſovereign; but the whole power actually reſides in the latter, conſiſting of thirty-ſix members, who are formed into two diviſions, which exerciſe the office by rotation. The members of this Senate are neither confirmed by the Sovereign Council, nor by the citizens, but are only dependant upon themſelves; the diviſion which retires at the end of ſix months, confirming that which comes into office. Beſides, the vacant places in the Senate are filled by its own body; ſo that the power remains in the poſſeſſion of a few patrician families: and, as the ſon generally ſucceeds his father, or the brother his brother, the ſenatorial dignity may be conſidered, in ſome meaſure, as hereditary.

The adminiſtration of the current affairs, the care of the police, the management of the finances, and the whole executive power, reſides in the Senate, which ſits conſtantly; whereas the Sovereign Council is aſſembled only upon particular and important occaſions. The Senate has cognizance of criminal cauſes; but in caſe of capital condemnation, the Sovereign Council is convoked in order to pronounce the ſentence: a practice worthy of imitation! for the condemnation of a criminal cannot be too maturely weighed; and great ſolemnity uſed in pronouncing the ſentence, muſt impreſs a ſtrong effect upon the minds of the people. In civil cauſes, an appeal lies from the Senate to the Sovereign Council; but this muſt be a mere formality: as, in fact, it is an appeal from the ſenators in one court to the ſame ſenators in another. Indeed, their influence over the Sovereign Council muſt neceſſarily be abſolute: for, they themſelves conſtitute above a third of that body: chooſe their own members; and confer the principal charges of government. They nominate alſo to the eccleſiaſtical benefices, which are very conſiderable; near two thirds of the revenues of the canton belonging to the clergy.

The chiefs of the republic are two advoyers, who are choſen from the Senate by the Sovereign Council, and are confirmed annually. In all elections, the relations of the candidates, to the third degree, are excluded from voting; and neither the father and the ſon, nor two brothers, can be members of the Senate at the ſame time. Excellent inſtitutions, one ſhould think, to prevent the too great influence of family-connections! excellent indeed in theory, but uſeleſs in practice: and this circumſtance proves, that when the ſpirit of the conſtitution is purely oligarchical, any laws enacted for the purpoſe of counteracting the power of the nobles, are mere cyphers. In ſome few inſtances, however, the authority of the nobles is controuled: for, in declaring war and peace, forming new alliances, or impoſing new taxes, the citizens muſt be aſſembled, and give their conſent.

Lucerne being the firſt in rank and power among the Catholic cantons, is the reſidence of the Pope's nuntio; and all affairs relative to religion are treated in the annual diet which aſſembles in this town, compoſed of the deputies of thoſe cantons. The town contains ſcarcely three thouſand inhabitants; has no manufactures of any conſequence, and little commerce; and as to learning, it no where meets with leſs encouragement, and conſequently is no where leſs cultivated. What a contraſt to Zuric! Yet, under theſe diſadvantages, a few perſons have made no inconſiderable progreſs in literature. Among theſe the moſt conſpicuous is Mr. Balthaſar, member of the Senate: he poſſeſſes a library that is rich in books relative to the hiſtory of Switzerland, in which he is extremely converſant; and the publications which he has already given to the world, and thoſe which he is now preparing for the preſs, prove that he knows how to uſe them. His works are, for the moſt part, in the German and Latin tongues; they contain biographical anecdotes of ſeveral illuſtrious Swiſs; elucidate various important parts in the general hiſtory of Switzerland; but more particularly relate to the canton of Lucerne. His ſon, a member of the Great Council, deſerves to be mentioned for his collection of Engliſh books; and the zeal with which he endeavours to propagate a knowledge of our literature. I have alſo no leſs ſatisfaction in adding, that, ſince my firſt expedition into theſe parts, ſcience is more cultivated; that the principles of toleration are better underſtood and more widely diffuſed; and that a literary ſociety is eſtabliſhed for the promotion of polite learning. The population of the canton has conſiderably increaſed within this century: a ſure proof of a mild and equitable government. The inhabitants are, as I am informed, almoſt totally engaged in agriculture. The ſouthern parts of the canton are chiefly mountainous, and furniſh for exportation cattle, hides, cheeſe, and butter. The northern diſtrict is fruitful in corn; the crops of which being more than ſufficient for the conſumption of the whole canton, there is a conſtant exportation of this article from the weekly market held in the town, to which the inhabitants of the neighbouring democratical cantons reſort, in order to purchaſe that and other neceſſaries in which their own country is deficient. The overplus for the ſupply of this market is drawn from Suabia and Alſace. This commerce, which, together with the paſſage of the merchandiſe for Italy, is the chief ſupport of the town, might be exceedingly improved and augmented, conſidering its advantageous ſituation: for the Reuſs iſſues from the lake, paſſes through the town; and, having joined the Aar, falls into the Rhine.

The cathedral and the Jeſuits church, are the only public buildings worthy of obſervation; but they are too much loaded with rich ornaments, and diſgraced by bad paintings. In the cathedral is an organ of a fine tone, and of an extraordinary ſize: of the latter you may judge by the dimenſions of the centre pipe; which, as the prieſt aſſured me, is forty feet in length, near three in breadth, and weighs eleven hundred pounds. The bridges which ſkirt the town, round the edge of the lake, are the faſhionable walks of the place, and remarkable for their length. Being covered at top, and open at the ſides, they afford a conſtant view of this delightful and romantic country. They are decorated with coarſe paintings, repreſenting the hiſtories of the Old Teſtament, the battles of the Swiſs, and the dance of Death.

Upon our arrival at Lucerne, we ſent a letter of recommendation to General Pfiffer, a native of this town, and an officer in the French ſervice. He received us immediately, with his uſual civility, and ſhewed us his topographical repreſentation of the moſt mountainous part of Switzerland,

zerland, which well deſerves the accurate attention of the curious traveller. It is a model in relief; and what was finiſhed in 1776, compriſed about ſixty ſquare leagues, in the cantons of Lucerne, Zug, Berne, Uri, Schweitz, and Underwalden. The model was twelve feet long, and nine and a half broad.

The compoſition is principally a maſtic of charcoal, lime, clay, a little pitch, with a thin coat of wax; and is ſo hard as to be trod upon without receiving the leaſt damage. The whole is painted with different colours, repreſenting the objects as they exiſt in nature. It is worthy of particular obſervation, that not only the woods of oak, beech, pine, and other trees, are diſtinguiſhed; but alſo that the ſtrata of the ſeveral rocks are marked; each being ſhaped upon the ſpot, and formed with granite, gravel, calcareous ſtone, or ſuch other natural ſubſtances as compoſe the original mountains. The plan is indeed ſo minutely exact, that it compriſes not only all the mountains, lakes, rivers, towns, villages, and foreſts; but every cottage, every torrent, every bridge, every road, and even every path is diſtinctly and accurately repreſented.

General Pfiffer has already been employed in this work about ten years, with the moſt aſtoniſhing patience and aſſiduity: he has himſelf raiſed the plans upon the ſpots, taken the elevations of the mountains, and laid them down in their ſeveral proportions. In the proſecution of this laborious performance, he has been twice arreſted for a ſpy; and in the popular cantons has frequently been forced to work by moonlight, in order to avoid the jealouſy of the peaſants, who think their liberty would be endangered, ſhould ſo exact a plan be taken of their country. As he is obliged to remain ſome time upon the tops of the Alps, where no proviſion can be procured; he generally carries with him a few ſhe-goats, whoſe milk ſupplies him with nouriſhment. Indeed his perſeverance in ſurmounting all the difficulties, that neceſſarily have ariſen in the courſe of this undertaking, is almoſt inconceivable. When he has finiſhed any particular part, he ſends for the peaſants and *chaſſeurs* who reſide near the ſpot, and bids them examine accurately each mountain; whether it correſponds, as far as the ſmallneſs of the ſcale will admit, with its natural appearance: then, by frequently retouching, he corrects the deficiencies. He takes his elevations from the level of the lake of Lucerne; which, according to Mr. de Sauſſure, is about fourteen hundred and eight feet above the Mediterranean.

This model, exhibiting the moſt mountainous parts of Switzerland, conveys a ſublime picture of immenſe alps piled one upon another: as if the ſtory of the Titans were realized, and they had ſucceeded (at leaſt in one ſpot of the globe) in heaping Oſſa upon Pelion, and Olympus upon Oſſa. The general informed me, that the tops of the alps which croſſed Switzerland in the ſame line, are nearly of the ſame level; or in other words, that there are continued chains of mountains of the ſame elevation, riſing in progreſſion to the higheſt range; and from thence gradually deſcending in the ſame proportion towards Italy.

He is exceedingly polite and affable to ſtrangers, and ever ready to be of any ſervice to travellers, in pointing out the beſt roads, and in acquainting them with the places moſt worthy of obſervation.

Near Lucerne is Mount Pilate, formerly called Mons *Pileatus*, from the Latin word *pilea*; its top being generally covered with a cloud or cap. This word has been corrupted into *Pilatus*; and from this alteration a thouſand ridiculous ſtories have been invented; among others, that Pontius Pilate, after having condemned our Saviour to death, was ſeized with remorſe; made an excurſion into Switzerland; and drowned himſelf in a lake, which is at the top of that mountain. This corruption of a word, and the abſurd legend fabricated from its alteration, will naturally remind you of ſeveral fables of ſimilar abſurdity, which are ſeriouſly related by the Greek writers: a circumſtance which my very worthy and learned friend Mr. Bryant, has ſo amply and ably diſcuſſed, in his *Analyſis of antient Mythology*.

I am, &c.

POSTSCRIPT.

HAVING, in three ſucceſſive viſits to Lucerne, obſerved the gradual progreſs of General Pfiffer's model, and in Auguſt 1786 ſeen it finally completed, I am enabled to add the following particulars, partly from my own obſervation, and partly communicated by the ingenious artiſt himſelf.

The model is compoſed of a hundred and forty-two compartments of different ſizes and forms: they are reſpectively numbered; and the whole can be taken to pieces and united with almoſt as much eaſe (if we may compare great things with ſmall) as the diſſected maps, by which children are inſtructed in geography.

The lake of Lucerne, nearly the center of Switzerland, forms alſo the center of the plan, which lays down part of the circumjacent cantons of Zuric, Zug, Schweitz, Underwalden, Lucerne, and Berne, and a ſmall portion of the mountains of Glarus. It comprehends a ſpace of 18½ leagues* in length, and 11 in breadth; and the dimenſions of the model being 20 feet † and a half in length, and 12 in breadth; 203½ ſquare leagues are repreſented on a parallelogram of 246 feet; or about two Engliſh miles and ¼ by a ſquare Engliſh foot.

The higheſt point of the model from the level of the center, is about ten inches; and ~~as~~ the moſt elevated mountain repreſented therein riſes 1475 toiſes, or 9440 feet, above the lake of Lucerne, at a groſs calculation, the height of an inch in the model is equivalent to about 900 feet. And it is a matter of aſtoniſhment to obſerve the ſtupendous works of nature delineated with ſuch perfect reſemblance in ſo ſmall a compaſs.

As to myſelf, though I received conſiderable ſatisfaction from the firſt view of this extraordinary performance, yet I again contemplated it with much more pleaſure, and ſtill greater aſtoniſhment, when I was able to trace on it many of my various expeditions, and to recognize its ſurpriſing accuracy.

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* A league is equal to 2,288 toiſes, or 13,728 French feet, or 14,643 Engliſh feet.

† French feet.

The general began this elaborate work at the age of fifty, and though now in the ſeventieth year of his age, continues his annual expeditions into the alps, with a ſpirit and ardour that would fatigue a much younger perſon. It is likewiſe no leſs entertaining than inſtructive, to hear him expatiate, with an agreeable vivacity, on the moſt intereſting objects, which are obſerved on the model. He kindly ſupplied me with the following remarks, which I tranſcribe from my journal.

According to a rough calculation, the height on which ſnow uſually remains during ſummer, may be eſtimated at 1360 toiſes, or 8704 Engliſh feet, above the level of the ſea; and on which it never melts, at 1448, or 9264 feet.

As a curious inſtance of divided property, he pointed out the promontory called Kieman, on the weſtern ſhore of the lake of Zug, of which the ground belongs to Lucerne, the timber to Zug, and the leaves to Schweitz. As a proof of aſtoniſhing confidence, he ſhewed me, on each ſide of the road that runs through the valley of Muotta, in the canton of Schweitz, ſeveral ranges of ſmall ſhops uninhabited, yet filled with various goods, of which the prices are marked: any paſſengers, who wiſh to become purchaſers, enter the ſhops, take away the merchandiſe, and depoſit the price, which the owners call for in the evening.

Among the phænomena of nature he mentioned the Rigi, an inſulated mountain near the lake of Lucerne, twenty-five miles in circumference, and riſing to a perpendicular height of more than four thouſand feet above the ſurface of the lake: it is entirely compoſed of gravel and pudding-ſtone, and muſt have been formed by the waters. The Rigi joins to a ſmall ridge of ſand-ſtone running towards Schweitz.

Mount Pilate offers a moſt ſingular curioſity. At the elevation of five thouſand feet, and in the moſt perpendicular part of the mountain, near the paſture of Brunlen, is obſerved, in the middle of a cavern hollowed in a black rock, a coloſſal ſtatue, which appears to be of white ſtone. It is the figure of a man in drapery ſtanding, leaning one elbow on a pedeſtal, with one leg croſſed over the other, and ſo regularly formed, that it cannot be a *luſus naturæ*. This ſtatue is called Dominic by the peaſants, who frequently accoſt it from the only place in which it can be ſeen, and when their voices are re-echoed from the cavern, they ſay, in the ſimplicity of their hearts, "Dominic has anſwered us."

It is difficult to imagine by whom, or in what manner this ſtatue could be placed in a ſituation, which has hitherto proved inacceſſible to all who have endeavoured to approach it. About the beginning of the preſent century, one Huber, a native of Krientz, a neighbouring village, attempted to deſcend into the cavern by means of ropes let down from the ſummit of the rock: he ſucceeded ſo far as to gain a near view of this ſingular phænomenon, and was again drawn up in ſafety. On a ſecond trial, as he was ſuſpended in the air, and was endeavouring to draw himſelf into the cavern by fixing a grapple to the ſtatue, the cord broke, and he was daſhed to pieces. Since that dreadful accident no one has ventured to repeat the experiment from the ſame quarter. Another trial to penetrate to the ſtatue was made in 1756, by General Pfiffer and eight perſons, from a ſmall opening on the oppoſite ſide of the mountain, in which the natives collect a white ſubſtance called *mond-loch*, or cream of the moon. As this opening is ſuppoſed to communicate with the cavern, the general and his companions crept on their hands and knees, one behind the other, and winding in the bed of a ſmall torrent, through ſeveral narrow paſſages, they at length diſcovered the light of the ſun through a remote chaſm; but as the diſtance ſeemed very conſiderable, and as the fall of a ſingle ſtone might have obſtructed their return, they thought it imprudent to venture any further, and retreated without having effected their purpoſe.

LETTER 24.

Valley of Entlibuch—Zoffingen—Lake of Sempach —Anniverſary of the Battle.

IN my firſt expedition to this country, I had no opportunity of viſiting the interior parts of the canton of Lucerne, which I afterwards traverſed in 1785 and 1786.

On both thoſe occaſions I paſſed from Berne to Lucerne, one time along the high road leading through Zoffingen, Surzee, and by the lake of Sempach; at the other, through Langenau, the Emme-thal, and the valley of Entlibuch, a diſtrict which, though not uſually frequented by travellers, yet highly deſerves their attention.

In the 13th century, Entlibuch was ſubject to the counts of Wolhauſen, and came by purchaſe, in 1299, to the emperor Albert. In the following century it was held as a fief from the Houſe of Auſtria by ſeveral ſucceſſive counts; of theſe the laſt, Peter of Torrenberg, having grievouſly oppreſſed the natives, they revolted, and in 1386 threw themſelves under the protection of Lucerne. That republic continued to poſſeſs Entlibuch, as a feudal tenure under the Houſe of Auſtria, until 1405; when the archduke Frederic renounced all the rights of ſovereignty in favour of Lucerne.

For above a century and an half ſubſequent to that period, the inhabitants, inflamed with a ſpirit of independence, and excited by the example of the neighbouring popular cantons, frequently roſe in arms, and attempted to eſtabliſh a democracy; but without ſucceſs. Their laſt inſurrection broke out in 1653; ſince which time they have continued in a ſtate of perfect tranquillity, under the wiſe adminiſtration of Lucerne; and have enjoyed, with contentment, the conſiderable privileges with which they are endowed.

The bailliage of Entlibuch extends from the Emme-thal in the canton of Berne, to the bridge near Wertenſtein, about fifteen miles in length, and nine in its greateſt breadth; and contains at leaſt 11,000 ſouls. It is governed by a bailif, who is always a ſenator of Lucerne: he continues in office two years, and generally reſides in that capital. The inhabitants enjoy conſiderable immunities, which they know how to prize.

The bailliage is divided into three diſtricts; the Upper, or Eſchliſmat; the Middle, or Shuepfen; the Lower, or Entlibuch; each whereof has its ſeparate courts of juſtice, from which an appeal lies to Lucerne.

That part of the bailliage which I traverſed, is a valley, watered by ſeveral lively rivulets, winding for ſome way between two ridges of well-wooded hills, and abounding in picturеſque ſcenery. Afterwards the country was undulating, and the road, which was narrow and rugged, ran along continual acclivities and declivities, through well-cultivated fields of paſture. I paſſed through ſeveral villages, of which the principal were Eſchliſmat, Shuepfen, and Entlibuch, which takes its name from the rivulet Entle, and gives it to the whole diſtrict. Theſe places are ſmall; but the whole country is ſtrewed with cottages, and ſeems a continued village. The inhabitants chiefly follow agriculture; they rear large quantities of horned cattle, ſheep, goats, and ſwine; make and export cheeſes in great abundance. Though uſually richer than the inhabitants in the other parts of the canton, yet they did not appear ſo well clothed, or to poſſeſs ſuch neat cottages, as their neighbours in the Emme-thal. The peaſants of Entlibuch are much eſteemed for their independent ſpirit, vigour, and ſtrength; remarkable for keenneſs and vivacity, for great quickneſs in repartee, for a peculiarity of garb, and for many ſtriking cuſtoms which diſtinguiſh them from the natives of the circumjacent diſtricts. Of various uſages, which eſcaped my notice during my ſhort ſtay among them, I chanced to gain information of one cuſtom, which reminds me of the *Feſcennina Licentia* mentioned by Horace, that prevailed among the Roman peaſants. Two neighbouring pariſhes ſend a challenge to each other; and, at the concluſion of the carnival, each diſpatches a man, *bedizened* with flowers and ſhells, called *ſhrove-monday-embaſſador*; who rides to the neighbouring village, and reads, or rather ſings, two ſatirical compoſitions in verſe: the one, a general ſatire againſt the pariſh, uſually begins by celebrating a period of Swiſs hiſtory accommodated to the circumſtances of time and place; then draws a compariſon between the two pariſhes, giving the preference to his own, either for the ſuperior learning and piety of the prieſt, the wiſdom and impartiality of the preſident, the induſtry and ſpirit of the men, the beauty and chaſtity of the women, and the education of the children. The ſecond compoſition conſiſts of a ſtring of epigrams in ridicule of particular perſons; in which any ſcandalous adventures, or ludicrous circumſtances, which have happened ſince the laſt year, are recorded with much exaggeration. The poet finiſhes his harangue with expreſſing a wiſh, that on the next Shrove-monday the inhabitants may improve, and not deſerve ſuch a ſevere reprimand.

On the concluſion of this lecture, which creates much laughter, the *mock embaſſador* returns; and the men of the two pariſhes repair, with drums beating and colours flying, to an open place, called the *Field of Battle*, followed and encouraged by the inhabitants of their reſpective pariſhes. When the two *armies* are drawn up in order of battle; the *combatants*, in imitation of the old Swiſs cuſtom, fall down upon their knees, offer up a ſhort prayer, and ſtart up at the ſound of the trumpet.

Having formed themſelves into two columns of ſeveral ranks, they march arm in arm, with uniform ſtep and military attitude; both the foremoſt lines meet in front and joſtle againſt each other, being ſupported and puſhed forwards by the hinder files, frequently aſſiſted by the women, until one *phalanx* is broke. The victorious party is dignified with the name of the *Swiſs*, and thoſe who gave way are called *Auſtrians*, in alluſion to the antient animoſity between thoſe two powers. The jurymen of the diſtrict are preſent as umpires, and to prevent any violent diſputes and quarrels. After the rencounter both parties ſit down to table, and the day is concluded with feaſting.

As thoſe ſatirical compoſitions occaſionally created much ill-will between the two neighbouring pariſhes, and the rencounters were attended with various accidents, the government of Lucerne aboliſhed the cuſtom; but has lately permitted it to be revived, with certain reſtrictions calculated to prevent any future miſchief.

The valley of Entlibuch may be conſidered as one of thoſe parts which unite the mild and cultivated, with the more wild and rugged ſcenery of Switzerland; its acclivities gradually aſcend and terminate in Mount Pilate, whoſe barren top is ſeen towering above the fertile and well-wooded hills.

On quitting this valley we croſſed the Emme over a covered bridge, admired the romantic poſition of Wertenſtein, a convent of Cordeliers, overhanging the perpendicular banks of that torrent; and paſſed through a very ſteep and rocky country to Malters, a ſmall village within a league of the capital. Here being a conſiderable fair, I ſtopped and dined at the *table d' hote*, in company with ſeveral gentlemen from Lucerne. In walking through the fair, I obſerved ſeveral booths for the ſale of artificial flowers; which were purchaſed by the country girls. With theſe flowers, and with four bows of ribbands, they ornament their hats, which they adjuſt obliquely, with a degree of ruſtic coquetry that is not unbecoming.

Another diſtrict of this canton, is that part which I viſited in 1786, along the high road leading from Berne to Lucerne. I paſſed the night at Zoffingen, a ſmall town in the canton of Berne, the inhabitants whereof enjoy greater immunities than any other place in that whole canton. They have their own magiſtrates; and what is peculiar, their own courts of juſtice, both civil and criminal, which decide in the laſt reſort, without an appeal to Berne. A bailif reſides there; but his whole employment conſiſts in collecting the tythes. The town contains about two thouſand ſouls.

Near Zoffingen I entered the canton of Lucerne, and paſſed through a narrow valley bounded ed by a chain of hills remarkable for the richneſs and variety of the hanging woods. As we proceeded the valley expanded; we traverſed a gently waving country, and deſcended to Surzee, a ſmall neat town near the lake of Sempach. From thence we coaſted the weſt ſide of that lake, which is a ſmall but beautiful piece of water, about three miles in length, and one in breadth. The grounds on each ſide ſlope gently to the edge of the water, and are prettily checkered with wood. On the oppoſite banks of the lake, I obſerved the town of Sempach, celebrated for the battle which eſtabliſhed the liberty of the Swiſs; and which I have already mentioned in the preceding letter. The anniverſary of that battle, which happened on the 9th of July, 1386, is ſtill commemorated with great ſolemnity, both at Sempach and Lucerne; and ſupplies a copious ſubject for many poems and ballads in the numerous collection of national ſongs.

On that anniverſary, a large body of perſons of all ranks aſſemble on the ſpot where the battle was fought; a prieſt aſcends a pulpit erected in the open air, and delivers a thankſgiving ſermon on the ſucceſsful efforts of their anceſtors on that happy day, which enſured to their country liberty and independence.

On the concluſion of this ſermon, another prieſt reads a deſcription of the battle, and commemorates the names of thoſe brave Swiſs who glorioufly ſacrificed their lives in defence of their freedom. Having exhorted thoſe who are preſent to pray for the ſouls of their countrymen, and of the enemies, who fell in that battle; they all repair inſtantly to a ſmall chapel, where maſſes are ſung for the ſouls of the deceaſed. During this ſervice, the people, falling on their knees, pray for their glorious anceſtors, either in the chapel, on whoſe walls are painted the deeds of the Swiſs who immortalized themſelves in this conflict, or before four ſtone croſſes which diſtinguiſh the place of combat.

LETTER 25.

The Lake of Lucerne—Geriſau—Schweitz—Origin of the Helvetic Confederacy—William Tell—Altdorf.

THE Waldſtætter See, or the Lake of the Four Cantons, is, from the greatneſs and ſublimity as well as variety of ſcenery, perhaps the fineſt body of water in Switzerland. The upper branch, or the lake of Lucerne, is in the form of a croſs; the ſides of which ſtretch from Kuſſnacht to Dallenwal, a ſmall village near Stantz. It is bounded towards the town of Lucerne by cultivated hills ſloping gradually to the water, contraſted on the oppoſite ſide by an enormous maſs of barren and craggy rocks. Mount Pilate riſes boldly from the lake, and is perhaps one of the higheſt mountains in Switzerland, if eſtimated from its baſe, and not from the level of the ſea. According to General Pfiffer, its elevation above the lake is more than ſix thouſand feet: nevertheleſs its height above the Mediterranean is trifling, in compariſon with that of the alps we are going to viſit; nor indeed does the ſnow continue all the year upon its ſummit.

Towards the end of this branch, the lake contracts into a narrow creek ſcarcely a mile acroſs; ſoon after, it again widens, and we entered the ſecond branch, or the lake of Schweitz: on the weſtern ſide the canton of Underwalden, on the eaſtern that of Schweitz. Here the mountains are more lofty, and infinitely varied: ſome covered to their very ſummits with the moſt lively verdure; others perpendicular and craggy; here forming vaſt amphitheatres of wood; there jutting into the water in bold promontories.

On the eaſtern ſide of this branch, is the village of Geriſau, at the foot of the Rigi: it is the ſmalleſt republic in Europe. Its territory is about a league in breadth, and two in length; ſituated partly on a ſmall neck of land at the edge of the lake, and partly lying upon the rapid declivity of the Rigi. It contains about 1200 inhabitants: they have their general aſſembly of burgeſſes, their Landamman, their council of regency, their courts of juſtice, and their militia. I was informed, that there is not a ſingle horſe in the whole territory of the republic; as indeed might well be ſuppoſed: for, the only way of arriving at the town is by water, excepting a narrow path down the ſteep ſides of the mountain, which is almoſt impaſſable. Geriſau is entirely compoſed of ſcattered houſes and cottages of a very neat and picturesque appearance. Each dwelling is provided with a field or ſmall garden. The inhabitants are much employed in preparing ſilk for the manufactures of Baſle. This little republic, is under the protection of the four cantons, Lucerne, Uri, Schweitz, and Underwalden:

Underwalden; and in caſe of war furniſhes its quota of men. To the ambitious politician, who judges of governments by extent of dominion and power, ſuch a diminutive republic thrown into an obſcure corner, and ſcarcely known out of its own contracted territory, muſt appear unworthy of notice; but the ſmalleſt ſpot of earth on which civil freedom is cultivated and flouriſhes, cannot fail to intereſt thoſe who know the true value of liberty and independence; and are convinced, that political happineſs does not conſiſt in great opulence and extenſive empire.

Towards the end of this branch the lake forms a bay; in the midſt of which lies the village of Brunnen, celebrated for the treaty, concluded, in 1315, between Uri, Schweitz, and Underwalden. Here I landed, and walked through an agreeable and fertile plain, laid out in meadows, and planted with fruit trees, to Schweitz, which ſtands on the ſlope of a hill, at the bottom of two high, ſharp, and rugged rocks, called the *Schweitzer-Haken*. Its poſition is extremely agreeable. The church, which is a large magnificent building, ſtands in the center of the place: near it the houſes are contiguous to each other: but in the other part they are prettily diſperſed about the gentle acclivities, in the midſt of lawns and meadows, and ſheltered by groves of trees. The principal object of curioſity in Schweitz, is a complete collection of the celebrated Hetlinger's medals, poſſeſſed by his nephew. This collection, which he inherited from his uncle, is very valuable, the medals being all of the fineſt impreſſions, and ſeveral extremely rare. From theſe medals Mr. ~~de~~ Mechel publiſhed his much eſteemed engravings, to which he has prefixed a life of the artiſt, who was born in the canton of Schweitz, on the 28th of March 1691, and died in 1771, in a very advanced age.

Having reimbarked at Brunnen, we ſoon entered the third branch, or the lake of Uri; the ſcenery of which is ſo grand and ſublime, that its impreſſion will never be eraſed from my mind. Imagine to yourſelf a deep and narrow lake about nine miles in length, bordered on both ſides with rocks uncommonly wild and romantic, and, for the moſt part, perpendicular; with foreſts of beech and pine growing down their ſides to the very edge of the water: indeed the rocks are ſo entirely ſteep and overhanging, that we ſcarcely obſerved more than four or five ſpots, where we could have landed. On the right-hand, upon our firſt entrance, a detached piece of rock, at a ſmall diſtance from the ſhore, engaged our attention. This rock is wholly formed by ſtones of the ſize and ſhape of bricks, ſo as to appear quite artificial. The ſame kind of natural maſonry may be obſerved in the lofty cliffs which impend over this lake, not far from Brunnen. It riſes to about ſixty feet in height; is covered with underwood and ſhrubs; and reminded me of thoſe crags that ſhoot up in the Fall of the Rhine near Schaffhauſen: but here the lake was as ſmooth as chryſtal; and the ſilent ſolemn gloom which reigned in this place, was not leſs awful and affecting than the tremendous roaring of the cataract in the other. Somewhat further, upon the higheſt point of the Seeliſberg, we obſerved a ſmall chapel that ſeemed inacceſſible; and below it, the little village of Gruti, near which the three heroes of Switzerland are ſaid to have taken reciprocal oaths of fidelity, when they planned the famous revolution.

On the oppoſite ſide appears the chapel of William Tell, erected in honour of that hero, upon the very ſpot where (it is ſaid) he leaped from the boat, in which he was conveying as a priſoner to Kuſſnacht. It is built upon a rock that projects into the lake under a hanging wood: a ſituation amid ſcenes ſo ſtrikingly awful, as muſt ſtrongly affect even the moſt dull and torpid imagination! On the inſide of this chapel, the ſeveral actions of William Tell are coarſely painted. While we were viewing them, we obſerved the countenances of our watermen gliſtening with exultation, and they related to us, with much ſpirit and ſenſibility, the cruelties and tyranny of Geſler, governor of Uri, and the intrepid behaviour of their glorious deliverer. Indeed I have frequently remarked with pleaſure, the national enthuſiaſm which ſo generally prevails in this country; and have greatly admired the fire and animation with which the people diſcourſe of thoſe famous men among their anceſtors, to whom they are indebted for that happy ſtate of independence which they now enjoy. This laudable ſpirit is continually ſupported and encouraged by the number of ſtatues, and other memorials, of the antient Swiſs heroes, which are ſo common in every town and village throughout Switzerland. Among theſe, Tell is the moſt diſtinguiſhed, and he ſeems to be the peculiar favourite of the common people: the reaſon is obvious; for his ſtory partakes greatly of the marvellous.

A few years ago a treatiſe, entitled *Fable Danoiſe*, was publiſhed at Berne; in which the author calls in queſtion the hiſtory of William Tell. Tho' his arguments in general are by no means concluſive; yet he mentions two circumſtances which, if true, are convincing proofs, that much fiction is interwoven with the whole account: for, the author aſſerts that the incident of Tell's ſhooting the apple from the head of his ſon, is not recorded in any of the contemporary hiſtorians, although they give the minuteſt accounts of the governor's tyranny; and that the firſt writer who takes notice of it, is Petermann Etterlin of Lucerne; who lived in the latter end of the fifteenth century, near two hundred years after the fact is ſuppoſed to have happened. Beſides, a ſtory of the ſame kind is related in the Daniſh annals by Saxo Grammaticus, with ſcarcely any difference but that of names: Harold king of Denmark ſupplies the place of the governor of Uri; and Tocco that of William Tell; and this event, which is ſaid to have happened in 965, is attended alſo with nearly the ſame incidents, as thoſe recorded in the Swiſs accounts *. Nevertheleſs, it is far from being a neceſſary conſequence, that, becauſe the authenticity of the ſtory concerning the apple is liable to ſome doubts; *therefore* the whole tradition relating to Tell is fabulous. Neither is it a proof againſt the reality of a fact, that it is not mentioned by any contemporary hiſtorians. The general hiſtory of William Tell is repeatedly celebrated in ſeveral old German ſongs, ſo remarkable for their antient dialect and ſimplicity, as almoſt to raiſe the deeds they celebrate above all reaſonable ſuſpicion: add to this, the conſtant tradition of the country, together with two chapels erected ſome centuries ago, in memory of his exploits.

The three cantons were ſo much offended with the author for throwing any doubt upon the exploits of their antient hero, that they preſented a remonſtrance to the ſovereign council of Berne: and the pamphlet was publicly burnt at Uri. In this inſtance their national prejudices

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* As Saxo Grammaticus is an author but little known, and the paſſage in queſtion is exceedingly curious; the reader will find it inſerted at the end of this volume. It is but juſtice to add, that ſome perſons queſtion the authenticity of this paſſage, and ſuppoſe it to be ſpurious.

(if they really deſerve that name) become, in ſome meaſure, meritorious and reſpectable.

Upon our landing at Fluellen, I had an opportunity of obſerving that the croſs-bow is ſtill much uſed in theſe parts, as I ſaw ſeveral very young boys, each with that inſtrument in his hand. Obſerving a butt at a ſmall diſtance from the place, I gave them to underſtand, that thoſe who hit the mark ſhould receive a penny for their dexterity. Upon this intimation, three boys took aim ſucceſſively, two of whom touched the very center of the butt, and obtained the prize accordingly: but, the third miſſing, I made him ſhoot till he hit the mark; which, after two or three trials, he at length performed.

From Fluellen we walked to Altdorf, the capital burgh of the canton of Uri, ſituated in a narrow vale almoſt entirely ſurrounded by ſtupendous mountains. It contains ſeveral neat houſes; the tops whereof are covered with large ſtones, in order to prevent the roofs being carried away by thoſe violent hurricanes which are frequent in theſe mountainous countries.

When the greateſt part of Helvetia was ſubject to the empire; the inhabitants of Uri, Schweitz, and Underwalden, had long enjoyed the moſt conſiderable privileges, particularly the right of being governed by their own magiſtrates; the clergy and many of the nobles, indeed, had fiefs and ſubjects in thoſe reſpective territories; but the bulk of the people formed ſeveral communities almoſt totally independent. During the twelfth century, various diſputes between theſe three cantons and the emperors, united them more firmly than ever; and they were accuſtomed, every ten years, to renew formally their alliance. Such was their ſituation at the death of Frederick II. in 1250. From this period, or ſoon afterwards, commences the interregnum in the empire: during which time of anarchy and confuſion, the nobles and biſhops endeavouring to extend their power, and to encroach upon the privileges of the people; Uri, Schweitz, and Underwalden, put themſelves under the protection of Rhodolph of Hapſburgh, who, in 1273, being choſen emperor, terminated the interregnum. Rhodolph received a ſmall revenue from theſe cantons, and appointed a governor, who had cognizance in all criminal cauſes: the rights, however, and privileges of ~~the~~ people were expreſsly reſerved.

Rhodolph, ſome time after his acceſſion to the imperial throne, liſtened to the ambitious ſchemes of his ſon Albert, who was deſirous to form Helvetia into a dutchy. For this purpoſe the emperor purchaſed the domains of ſeveral abbeys, and other conſiderable fieſs in Switzerland, as well in the canton of Schweitz as in the neighbouring territories. The three cantons, induced by the great increaſe of power, which the emperor gained by this acquiſition, prudently renewed their alliance, and obtained a confirmation of their privileges: which, upon the death of Rhodolph, was confirmed by his ſucceſſor Adolphus of Naſſau. But when Albert was afterwards elected emperor, he refuſed to ratify their rights: and, in order totally to ſubdue the people, placed over them two governors, who were guilty of many flagitious acts of tyranny and oppreſſion.

Under theſe circumſtances Werner de Staffach of Schweitz, Walther Furſt of Uri, and Arnold de Melchthal of Underwalden, planned the famous revolution, which took place January 13, 1308, and reſtored liberty to the three cantons. Albert, while he was preparing to attack them, was aſſaſſinated by his nephew John of Hapſburgh*. In 1315, Leopold duke of Auſtria marched againſt the confederate cantons, at the head of twenty thouſand troops, and, endeavouring to force his way into Schweitz at the ſtreights of Morgarten, received a total defeat from thirteen hundred Swiſs, who were poſted upon the mountains. If we may believe contemporary hiſtorians, the Swiſs loſt but fourteen men in this memorable engagement, which inſured their independence. In the ſame year, the three cantons contracted a perpetual alliance, which was ratified at Brunnen; and is the grand foundation of the Helvetic Confederacy. Such were the feeble beginnings of a league, ſince become ſo formidable by the acceſſion of ten more cantons, and by the additional ſtrength of its numerous allies: and it is remarkable, that Switzerland is the only country which, on the one ſide, has confined the limits of the German empire; and, on the other, has ſet bounds to the French monarchy, which the latter has never tranſgreſſed.

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* See Letter 14.

The name of Schweitzerland, or Switzerland, which originally comprehended only the three cantons of Uri, Schweitz, and Underwalden, was afterwards extended to all Helvetia. It derived that appellation either from the canton of Schweitz, as having particularly diſtinguiſhed itſelf in the revolution of 1308, and alſo at the battle of Morgarten; or becauſe the Auſtrians called all the inhabitants of theſe mountainous parts, by the general denomination of Schweitzers.

Switzerland was the rock on which the Houſe of Auſtria ſplit, during more than a century. Blinded with reſentment againſt their former ſubjects, and anxious to recover their loſt domains in theſe parts; the ſeveral dukes led in perſon conſiderable armies to ſubdue a nation, whoſe ſpirit was unconquerable; and to obtain poſſeſſion of a country, which, from its ſituation, was eaſily defended by a handful of men againſt the moſt numerous troops. Within the period above-mentioned, they neglected ſeveral opportunities of aggrandizing themſelves in other parts; and, ſlighting what was more feaſible, bent their whole efforts to acquire what in its very nature was unattainable. The conſequence of this miſtaken policy, was, a continued ſucceſſion of defeats, attended with a prodigious expence, and the loſs of their braveſt troops: until at length, convinced of their error, they totally relinquiſhed an attempt, in which they had expended ſo much fruitleſs blood and treaſure. But although ſeveral emperors of that Houſe occaſionally made alliances with the Swiſs cantons; yet it was not till the treaty of Weſtphalia that their independence was fully and finally acknowledged, by Ferdinand III. and the whole empire.

The government of Uri and Schweitz is entirely democratical, and nearly the ſame. The ſupreme power reſides in the people at large, who are divided into ſeveral communities, from which are choſen the councils of regency. In the *Lands-gemeind*, or general aſſembly, the Landamman, and the principal magiſtrates, are elected; and every burgher, at the age of fourteen in the cantons of Uri and Underwalden; and of fifteen in Schweitz; has a right to vote. The councils of regency in Uri and Schweitz conſiſt each of ſixty members, and reſide at the capital burghs. In this council the executive power is veſted, and from this body the principal magiſtrates are choſen.

Theſe two cantons contain, including their ſubjects, about fifty thouſand ſouls, and in caſe of neceſſity could furniſh above twelve thouſand militia. All the Catholic cantons enjoy conſiderable ſubſidies from France Every burgher, at the age of fourteen, in Uri, receives annually about ſix livres, or five ſhillings; the Landamman and the magiſtrates more in proportion. The canton of Schweitz being for ſome time diſcontented with France, withdrew its troops from that ſervice: but this year the matter has been accommodated; and the king pays annually to every male child of a burgher four livres, commencing from the time of his birth.

The ſame kind of ſoil, and the ſame ſort of productions, are common to the two cantons: the whole country being rugged and mountainous, conſiſts chiefly of paſture, but raiſes little corn, and has no vines. We cannot but obſerve with aſtoniſhment, to what a degree of fertility the natives have improved a land, naturally barren, and for which they fought with as much zeal and intrepidity, as if they contended for the richeſt plains of Sicily or Aſia Minor. In theſe little democratical ſtates, ſumptuary laws are not neceſſary; for, they ſcarcely know, even in idea, what luxury is. Such indeed is the purity, or (as ſome perhaps would call it) the auſterity of morals, which ſtill prevails among theſe people, as cannot eaſily be imagined by the inhabitants of great and opulent cities: and I cannot reflect on that affectionate patriotiſm which ſo ſtrongly attaches them to their country, without calling to mind that beautiful deſcription of the Swiſs peaſant, in Goldſmith's Traveller:

> "*Dear is that ſhed to which his ſoul conforms,*
> "*And dear that hill which lifts him to the ſtorms:*
> "*And as a child, when ſcaring ſounds moleſt,*
> "*Clings cloſe and cloſer to the mother's breaſt;*
> "*So the loud torrent, and the whirlwind's roar,*
> "*But bind him to his native mountains more.*"

Every ſtep we now advance is treading, as it were, upon ſacred ground; monuments continually occurring of thoſe memorable battles, by which the Swiſs reſcued themſelves from oppreſſion, and ſecured the enjoyment of their invaluable freedom. I am now indeed in the very center of civil liberty; would I could add of religious too! but the church of Rome is here exclusively eſtabliſhed. It muſt be acknowledged, however, that this intolerant ſpirit is not wholly confined to the Catholic cantons; for, in thoſe where the Proteſtants prevail, Calviniſm is alone admitted: and thus a nation, who prides herſelf upon her freedom, denies the free exerciſe of religion to every other ſect except that which predominates. Is not this ſtriking at the firſt principle, and moſt valuable privilege, of genuine liberty?

Long as my letter already is, I cannot forbear mentioning a peculiar cuſtom obſerved in ſome of theſe democratical ſtates: every perſon who is choſen for a bailliage, or any lucrative office, is obliged to pay a certain ſtipulated ſum into the public fund. This practice is attended with one ill conſequence at leaſt; as the ſucceſsful candidate is in ſome meaſure authoriſed to ſtretch his prerogatives, in order to ſwell the profits of his charge. Accordingly it is a general remark, that in the common bailliages the bailiſs, appointed by the popular cantons, are more apt to be guilty of exactions than thoſe of the ariſtocratical republics.

I am, &c.

LETTER 26.

Canton of Underwalden—Sarne—Saxelen—Tomb and Character of Nicholas de Flue—Stantz—Engelberg—Paſſage over the Suren Alps to Altdorf.

INSTEAD of proceeding, as in my former tour, from Lucerne to Altdorf by water, I made an agreeable excurſion to Sarne, Saxelen, and Stantz, in the canton of Underwalden, viſited the abbey of Engelberg, and traverſed the Suren Alps to Altdorf.

Having diſpatched my baggage by water to Altdorf, I walked, in company with Mr. Meyer, member of the Great Council of Lucerne, through a pleaſant plain, lying between Mount

Pilate and an oppoſite ridge of hills, to Winke, a village ſituated on an inlet of the lake of Lucerne. There I took boat, and rowing acroſs the inlet, diſembarked near Alpnach, in the canton of Underwalden, and continued along a foot-way, which winds through encloſures of rich paſture-land, browſed by numerous herds of fine cattle, and prettily checkered with ſcattered cottages. Having croſſed a ſmall river, I arrived at Sarne, the capital burgh of that diviſion of the canton called Oberwalden, wherein the *Land-rath*, or ſupreme court of judicature, aſſembles for the purpoſe of deciding civil and criminal proceſſes. This tribunal is compoſed of fifty-eight judges, who are choſen by the people, and continue in office for life. In criminal affairs of any notoriety, each of theſe fifty-eight is empowered to bring into court two individuals; and this whole tribunal, thus conſiſting of a hundred and ſeventy-four members, aſſembles in a large open hall in the town-houſe, and paſſes final ſentence.

At Sarne I embarked upon the Aa, and aſcending its ſtream, entered the lake of Sarne: this piece of water, about three miles long, and one and a half broad, is pleaſantly encloſed between the mountains, and its riſing borders are richly variegated with paſtures and trees. I landed at Saxelen, which ſtands on its weſtern ſhore; a neat village much frequented in theſe parts, as being the native place of the celebrated ſaint and patriot Nicholas de Flue, to whoſe honour a church has been lately erected at a conſiderable expence. The interior is ornamented in a pleaſing ſtyle of architecture. Ten elegant columns of black marble ſupport the roof: they are about twenty-four feet in height, and many of them are of a ſingle piece. They were hewn out of a quarry in the Melchthal, about nine miles from Saxelen, and were dragged from thence by the peaſants, who voluntarily performed this taſk, which they conſidered as an act of religious duty: a laborious enterpriſe, to convey ſuch heavy burdens down ſteep precipices and over rugged pathleſs rocks, where they could neither be aſſiſted by horſes or oxen!

Under a glaſs-caſe in the midſt of this church, are depoſited the bones of this favourite object of national worſhip, fantaſtically ornamented, according to the Roman Catholic cuſtom, with gold and precious ſtones. His real burial place is ſtill to be ſeen in a ſmall adjoining chapel: it is a ſimple grave-ſtone, on which his figure is coarſely carved in ſtone, the work of the age in which he lived. At a ſmall height over this antient monument, is placed another grave-ſtone, bearing alſo his figure, executed in later times, leſs rude, but ſtill of coarſe workmanſhip.

On entering this chapel, I obſerved numerous pilgrims of both ſexes, who were kneeling before his tomb, and praying with the greateſt fervency. Many, in the ardour of devotion, threw themſelves between the two grave-ſtones, and ſtretching themſelves upon the moſt antient figure, repeatedly kiſſed and embraced it.

Nicholas de Flue, this object of national enthuſiaſm, was born at Saxelen in 1417. Deſcended from an antient family, he ſignalized himſelf in defence of his country, and particularly during the war which the Swiſs ſupported againſt Sigiſmond archduke of Auſtria. He was no leſs remarkable for humanity than valour. He remonſtrated to his countrymen preparing to pillage and burn the convent of St. Margaret near Dieſſenhoſen. He exclaimed: "If God grants you the victory over your enemies, uſe it with moderation; and ſpare thoſe edifices which are conſecrated to him." This remonſtrance was attended with effect, and the convent was ſaved from deſtruction. To the moſt excellent qualities of the heart and underſtanding, to great political ſagacity he added the exterior graces of figure, dignity of character, and the moſt winning affability of manners. Raiſed by his countrymen to ſeveral high employments in the ſtate, he repeatedly declined the office of landamman from motives of delicacy, becauſe he diſapproved the principles of the governing party. At length, hurried away by his deteſtation of evil, and a zeal for monkiſh devotion, he quitted his family in the fiftieth year of his age, and retiring from the world, in a fit of gloomy ſuperſtition turned hermit. The place of his retreat was at Ranft, a few miles from Saxelen; there he built an hermitage and a ſmall chapel, and practiſed all the ſeverities required by that auſtere mode of life with the ſtricteſt obſervance.

But the flame of patriotiſm, although ſmothered in his breaſt by an ill-directed zeal for miſtaken duties, was not extinguiſhed; and he was the happy inſtrument in reſtoring Switzerland from the impending horrors of civil diſcord. At the concluſion of the war with Charles the Bold, Friburgh and Soleure contracted an alliance with Zuric, Berne, and Lucerne. This treaty being conſidered by Uri, Schweitz, Underwalden, Zug, and Glarus, as a breach of the former union, thoſe five cantons refuſed to receive them. After various diſputes and fruitleſs conferences, the deputies of the eight confederate cantons aſſembled, in 1481, at Stantz, in order to compromiſe the differences.

Both ſides, however, were ſo heated with mutual animoſities, that the deputies were on the point of ſeparating without effecting a reconciliation, and a civil war appeared inevitable. In this criſis of affairs, de Flue no ſooner heard, in the depth of his ſolitude, of thoſe public diſſenſions which threatened a fatal rupture between the confederate cantons, than his patriotiſm prevailed over his ſuperſtition; and he quitted his unprofitable hermitage, in order to exert thoſe active and public virtues, the very loweſt of which ſingly outweighs whole years of uſeleſs and unrequired mortifications. Accordingly this extraordinary man, having, though in the 64th year of his age, travelled during the night, arrived at Stantz on the very morning in which the deputies were preparing for their departure. He earneſtly conjured them to remain; and, having prevailed upon them once more to aſſemble, he ſo forcibly repreſented to them the deſtructive conſequences which would attend their diſunion, that they choſe him arbiter of the diſpute. By his ſole mediation all differences between the contending parties were amicably adjuſted; and Friburgh and Soleure were, by his advice, inſtantly received into the Helvetic Confederacy: ſuch was the effect of his perſuaſive and conciliatory eloquence! Having thus happily compoſed the public diſſenſions, he returned to his hermitage, where he died, in 1487, in the 70th year of his age, regretted and eſteemed by all Switzerland. Such a general opinion of his extreme piety prevailed among his contemporaries, that the bigotry of thoſe times aſcribed to him an exemption from the common wants of humanity.

In the regiſter of the church of Saxelen, the following notice is inſcribed for 1485, the year antecedent to his death. "In 1417, Nicholas de "Flue, a ſaint, was born in the pariſh of Saxelen; "who afterwards retired into a deſart called "Ranft, where God ſuſtained him during eighteen years, without eating or drinking for a "long time, namely when this was written; and "he is now in good eſtate, and of holy life."

On his tomb is inſcribed the following epitaph: "Nicholas de Flue quitted his wife and children "to go into the deſert: he ſerved God nineteen "years and a half without taking any ſuſtenance. "He died 1487."

This frivolous epitaph ſtrongly marks the bigotted ſpirit of that dark age in which it was compoſed: the narrow-minded author, totally overlooking the patriot in the hermit, ſaw nothing

thing ſo truly meritorious in the life of the deceaſed, as his having ſuppreſſed thoſe ſocial and public energies which dignify human nature, in order to practiſe the debaſing auſterities of a ſuperſtitious religioniſt.—He ought to have inſcribed, "To the memory of Nicholas de Flue, who quitted his hermitage to appear in the world; who reſtored peace and harmony to the republics of Switzerland, and who ſerved God by ſerving his country."

From Saxelen we intended to have viſited Ranft, de Flue's hermitage, and from thence to have proceeded down the Melchthal and over the mountains to Engelberg; but as the evening was already beginning to cloſe, we durſt not venture along ſo difficult a paſſage, which would have employed us at leaſt five hours; we thought it, therefore, moſt prudent to continue our route towards Stantz. We followed the footpaths, which wind agreeably, ſometimes through foreſts, ſometimes over the fields and meadows; and paſſed through a fertile but wilder and more romantic part of the canton, than that which we traverſed in the morning. We continued for ſome way at the foot of the Stantzberg, croſſed a ſmall plain that was formerly a lake, in which ſtaples for mooring veſſels are occaſionally diſcovered; and, in about three hours after our departure from Saxelen, arrived at Stantz, in the duſk of the evening.

About three miles from Stantz is a ſmall wood called the *Kern-wald,* which we paſſed through in our route from Saxelen; it would not have been worthy of mention, if it did not ſeparate the canton into two diviſions, called * *Oberwald* and *Underwald.* Formerly the whole canton was under the ſame general adminiſtration; but the inhabitants of the two diſtricts ſeparating upon ſome diſpute, have ſince formed two republics, and have each their *lands-gemeind,* or general aſſembly, their landamman, and council of regency: for the management of external affairs, there is a joint-council, choſen equally by the two diviſions; at the Helvetic Diet they ſend but one deputy, and regulate their vote by mutual conſent.

Stantz is the ſeat of civil and criminal judicature; and it is worthy of remark, that every male of the age of thirty is permitted to give his vote for the acquittance or condemnation of a criminal.

Stantz, the capital of Underwalden, is ſituated in a beautiful plain of paſture, about two or three miles in breadth, at the foot of the Stantzberg, and at a little diſtance from the lake of Lucerne. The town and environs, which are delightfully ſprinkled with numerous cottages, are, for ſo ſmall a place, extremely populous, compriſing, perhaps, not leſs than five thouſand ſouls. The church is a tolerably handſome building, and is decorated in the inſide with ten black marble pillars of large dimenſions, but not ſo beautiful as thoſe at Saxelen. The women in theſe parts dreſs their heads in a ſingular manner, and extremely unbecoming: they wear black-beaver cocked hats, ſimilar to thoſe of the men, with black ears to their caps, which almoſt conceal their hair.

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* Above the wood, and Below the wood; *wald* in German ſignifying a wood.

The next morning the abbot of Engelberg, having been previouſly informed of our intended viſit, politely ſent horſes to Stantz; and we rode through a fertile valley, encloſed between the Stantzberg and a chain of hills, until we arrived at Graffen-ort, a ſmall villa belonging to the abbot, about two leagues from Stantz. Here we began to aſcend along a road winding by the ſide of a ſteep precipice, and through "*unſunned foreſts*" of beech intermingled with poplar, mountain-aſh, Spaniſh cheſnuts, and pines, the torrent Aa impetuouſly foaming in a ſtony channel, and forming a ſucceſſion of cataracts. The wild horrors of the circumjacent rocks, the inceſſant roaring of the waters, and the ſolitary gloom of the foreſt, reminded me of Gray's beautiful Ode on the Grande Chartreuſe, in which he deſcribes ſimilar ſcenes with a ſublimity and truth which every perſon of taſte, who travels through theſe magnificent regions, muſt feel and admire.

Per invias rupes, fera per juga,
Clivoſque præruptos, ſonantes
Inter aquas, nemorumque noctem.

Having iſſued from the dark foreſt, we deſcended for a little way; and unanimouſly broke into an exclamation of ſurpriſe and delight, as we ſuddenly looked down upon a pictureſque plain of an oval ſhape beautifully wooded, watered by ſeveral lively ſtreams, encloſed within a circle of gentle hills, and terminated by a majeſtic amphitheatre of "*cloud-capt alps:*" toward the extremity of this plain, the abbey, a large quadrangular building of ſtone, is ſituated, at the foot of the *Engelberg*, or Mountain of *Angels*, from which the whole diſtrict takes its name. On alighting from our horſes, the abbot politely received and conducted us into a large ſaloon, where ſoon afterwards dinner was ſerved with all the plenty of feudal times, and all the comforts of the preſent age. The company at table conſiſted of the abbot, five or ſix benedictines, ourſelves, and our ſervants, who, according to the cuſtom of the place, ſat down to the ſame hoſpitable board with their maſters. This intermixture of ſociety, the politeneſs of the worthy abbot, and the facetious cheerfulneſs of one among the fathers, rendered the repaſt as agreeable as it was uncommon. After dinner we viſited the library, which contains about ten thouſand volumes: and, among many rare editions, above two hundred printed in the fifteenth century. I noticed a much larger collection of modern hiſtorical and miſcellaneous works, than are uſually found within the walls of a monaſtery; which does honour to the taſte of the abbot, and proves him to be a warm friend to polite literature.

The weather being fine and clear, I ſtrayed about the environs; admiring the ſcattered hamlets, the beautiful tufts of wood, and the lively ſtreams which murmur through the plain: of theſe, one called the Melt-bach, which I obſerved iſſuing copiouſly from the ground, begins to flow on the firſt melting of the ſnow in the month of May, and ceaſes towards the end of September; and the Grieſen-bach, that riſes at the foot of Mount Blake, runs only from mid-day to the ſetting ſun. Several other torrents, that pour down from the neighbouring glaciers, and numerous ſprings that burſt from the ground near the abbey, help to ſupply the Aa, which ruſhes from the Suren alps, and, ſwelled with theſe tributary waters, haſtens to throw itſelf into the lake of Lucerne. The amphitheatre of cloud-capt mountains, is formed by the Melkleberg, the Arniberg, the Blakeberg, the Spitze-ſtock, the Suren alps with their brown peaks boldly riſing from the boſom of the ſnow, the Engelberg towering in naked majeſty, and, the moſt elevated and moſt beautiful in the whole chain, Mount Titlis, ſupporting on its top an immenſe glacier.

About ſeven in the afternoon we ſat down to ſupper; in the midſt of the repaſt we were ſuddenly ſtruck with an awful thunder-ſtorm, which, though it could not be called the muſic of the ſpheres, or ſuch as, according to the legends of the abbey, was performed on the top of the Engelberg, by a choir of angels, at the conſecration of the convent; yet produced a moſt ſublime effect, when re-echoed by the ſurrounding mountains.

The abbot of this convent, choſen by a majority of ſixteen benedictines, who compoſe the chapter, is ſovereign lord over the land of Engelberg,

gelberg, a ſmall tract of country about ſixty miles in circumference, and under the protection of Lucerne, Uri, Schweitz, and Underwalden. The only habitable part of this diſtrict is the ſmall plain in which the abbey is ſituated, that contains fifteen hundred ſouls: the remaining portion, being entirely mountainous, affords in ſummer a retreat to numerous herds of cattle. The abbot, to whom we were indebted for ſo polite a reception, is Leodigar Saltzman, a native of Lucerne, who, ſince his elevation to his preſent dignity, has been a kind and indulgent maſter: finding many of his ſubjects extremely poor and indolent, he has excited them to induſtry; and, in order to aſſiſt them during the winter months, when agriculture is ſuſpended, he employs them in winding ſilk, which he imports from Italy. He poſſeſſes very conſiderable power, which renders him nearly abſolute. In all criminal caſes he arreſts and impriſons; appoints the perſon who examines; can order, if he thinks it neceſſary, the infliction of torture; and can pardon or mitigate the ſentence given by the tribunal of the country, called *landſgericht*. In civil cauſes his influence is very conſiderable; he appoints, from twelve candidates ſelected by the people, the ſeven judges, who, in conjunction with the *thalamman* and *ſtathalter*, form the above-mentioned *landſgericht*, which decides in the firſt reſort: he can alſo diſplace them if he pleaſes; and abſolutely nominates all the judges of the *geiſtlichen-gericht*, or eccleſiaſtical court, which receives appeals from the deciſions of the former tribunal. His power is reſtricted in the following inſtances. If he is engaged in a law-ſuit with an individual, the award of the country tribunal is final; and if with the whole community, the queſtion is decided by the four cantons of Lucerne, Uri, Schweitz, and Underwalden.

His revenues amount to about £. 5000; and are derived partly from tythes of certain eſtates in the free baillages of Switzerland, from a few feudal rights, but principally from the exportation of cheeſes. Beſide thoſe which are made on the paſtures belonging to the abbey, he purchaſes others from the peaſants of his little territory, and diſpoſes of the whole on his own account. About eighteen hundred cows, including thoſe which are the property of the convent, are poſſeſſed by the natives of Engelberg, and annually ſupply cream for about 10,000 cheeſes, each weighing from 25 to 50 pounds, and ſelling, on an average, for fifteen florins, or one pound five ſhillings per hundred weight: and it may be calculated that the abbot circulates annually to the value of £. 4000. This revenue, however, cannot be conſidered as his own private property; for he pays the current expences of the abbey.

Several ineffectual expeditions having been made towards attaining the ſummit of Mount Titlis, the moſt elevated mountain in theſe parts, and perhaps ſcarcely inferior to the Schreckhorn and Jungfrauhorn; it was for a long time conſidered as inacceſſible: but, as tradition reported, that in the year 1739, three men had aſcended it, Mr. Freygrabend, a native of Engelberg, and phyſician to the abbot, a few days after my departure from the convent, ſucceeded in a ſimilar attempt. The following account of this expedition is extracted from a German letter, written by the phyſician himſelf to a friend at Lucerne.

"Early in the morning on the 14th of September, the weather being fine and clear, I ſet out with eleven companions, among whom were Jerom Dopler and Conrad Stocher, two friars of the convent. About two in the morning, after aſcending through Gerſchne, and Unter and Ober-laub, we reached, at break of day, the ſummit of the Laubergrat. Here we enjoyed a fine view over the canton of Underwalden, the lake and canton of Lucerne, the free bailliages of Switzerland, and the canton of Zug. Having taken ſome refreſhment, and repoſed ourſelves a quarter of an hour, we put on our crampons, and purſued our route, eager, like the giants of old, to ſcale the ſteep ſides of Mount Faulblatten. We continued for about an hour along the piked ridge of this mountain, tottering by the ſide of tremendous precipices, and twice climbing an aſcent almoſt perpendicular. We could not obſerve any trace of the ſmalleſt vegetation. Having gained the higheſt point of the Faulblatten, we arrived at a glacier, which being fortunately covered with freſh ſnow, rendered the ice leſs ſlippery than uſual.

" Hitherto our courſe had been attended with ſome danger, but from hence we aſcended, and reached, with little difficulty, the top of the Titlis, called *Nollen.* But here we were obliged to croſs a deep chaſm, and to mount the ſides of the ice, which were as perpendicular as a wall, by forming ſteps for our feet with the iron ſpikes of our poles: below us was a valley of ice about ſixteen miles in length, deſcending rapidly towards Oberhaſli. It was now about ten in the morning, and the ſun was extremely bright. Having walked a few paces, the proſpect was on all ſides open and unbounded. This ſublime, yet dreary ſcene, though it ſurpaſſes all deſcription, made an impreſſion on my mind which I ſhall never forget.

“ Here the painter and poet would find ample and endleſs employment, if the colours of the former and the conceptions of the latter could reſiſt the effects of the extreme cold. The firſt objects which caught our attention, were the alps of the Vallais, Berne, and Savoy, with their glaciers and vallies of ice, a majeſtic and tremendous ſcene. Among numerous mountains which roſe before us, Mont-Blanc, though at ſome diſtance, reared its head above the reſt; near us towered the Schreckhorn, Wetterhorn, and Jungfrauhorn, but leſs elevated in appearance than the point on which we ſtood. Below us we obſerved a valley of ice about two miles in breadth, and of ſuch immenſe length, that one extremity ſeemed to join Mont-Blanc, and the other to be cloſed by the Titlis. To the eaſt, the Rothſtock, the Plangen, and the mountains of Uri, neither ſo wild nor ſo elevated as thoſe to the ſouth; and towards the north-weſt, the eye repoſed itſelf over the leſs dreary and more cultivated parts of Switzerland, as far as the borders of Alſace and Suabia. Immediately below us we noticed the abbey; and we heard the ſound of ſeveral mortars, which the abbot ordered to be fired as a ſignal that we were alſo ſeen: by means of a ſmall teleſcope I obſerved the fire and ſmoke; and five minutes elapſed before the ſound reached us, not in a ſtrait direction, but re-echoed between the ſurrounding rocks. We had propoſed to kindle a fire, and to let off ſome hand-grenades, but the cold prevented us from ſtriking fire. Not being able to ſupport its extremity more than three quarters of an hour, although the ſun ſhone very bright, and we kept ourſelves in continual motion, we placed a black flag on the higheſt point.

" We were as fortunate in deſcending as in mounting. We came to the Under-Titlis at half paſt eleven; to the Laubergrat at one, where we again took ſome refreſhment; and having let off our grenades, we reached the abbey at five in the afternoon. We felt no other inconvenience from this expedition, than that our faces were ſwelled, and our ſkins peeled, from the reflection of the ſun; and that for ſome hours after my return to Engelberg, I loſt my ſight and my hearing, both which however I ſoon recovered. Undoubtedly the Titlis is the higheſt mountain in Switzerland, excepting Mont-Blanc, to which it is not much inferior."

It is to be regretted, that this expedition was only a mere object of curioſity; and that the ingenious phyſician carried with him neither thermometer nor barometer. His aſſertion that the Titlis is higher than any mountain in Switzerland, will, for this reaſon, and without farther proofs, admit of much doubt; and its elevation, though very conſiderable, muſt be greatly inferior to that of Mont-Blanc; as will appear by conſidering that the expedition from the plain of Engelberg to the top of the Titlis was performed in eight hours; whereas Dr. Paccard and James Balma employed fifteen in attaining the ſummit of Mont-Blanc; and the place from which they took their departure, is probably much higher above the level of the ſea than the valley of Engelberg.

August 25.

Travellers, in going from Engelberg to Altdorf, uſually return to Stantz or Buochs, embark on the lake of Lucerne, and proceed the reſt of the way by water; but as I had already viſited thoſe places, I preferred following the route acroſs the mountains. The morning being obſcure and rainy, we were detained till nine o'clock, when the weather clearing up I ſet out, in company with Meſſrs. Balthazar and Meyer, of Lucerne. Paſſing through the plain of Engelberg, we admired, on our left, a fine waterfall, which precipitates itſelf from mount Engel, and in about a league arrived at a cottage belonging to the abbey, where we found two peaſants employed in making cheeſes, and where we regaled ourſelves with ſome excellent cream. From this point we mounted gently by the ſide of the Aa, leaving on our right the high Suren alps, whoſe pointed tops occaſionally burſt forth amid the clouds and vapours; about a mile from the cottage we quitted the abbot's horſes, walked up a gradual aſcent, paſſed a ſuperb cataract of the Aa, and reached a chapel noted in theſe parts for a ſmall bell, which, according to tradition, was the gift of a French traveller. Near this chapel we obſerved a hut, which is in the canton of Uri, and from thence the aſcent was ſteeper, but not difficult; we croſſed many drifts of ſnow, and were incommoded by a keen wind and frequent ſhowers of ſleet, hail, and rain. At length, in about four hours after our departure from the abbey, we reached a croſs planted on the higheſt point; from which elevation we ſhould have enjoyed a moſt ſuperb view, greatly admired by travellers, on one ſide towards Uri and the chain of the St. Gothard, and on the other towards Engelberg and the lake of Lucerne, if the weather had not totally obſcured the proſpect. From this point the Titlis is much extolled for its beautiful and majeſtic appearance.

From hence we deſcended the Enkeberg into a moſt barren region, amid a harveſt of pointed rocks, and over numerous drifts of ſnow, and fallen fragments of ſtone, intermixed with ſmall patches of ruſſet herbage, which contributed to render the ſcene ſtill more dreary. Our deſcent along a bare ſlippery rock of ſlate, or in the beds of torrents, or over large maſſes of ice and ſnow, continued above an hour and an half, when we obſerved ſeveral huts lying in a ſmall plain. From their firſt appearance we concluded that we ſhould preſently reach them, but the precipices were ſo ſteep, the paths ſo rugged, and the diſtance ſo much greater than we at firſt imagined, that it employed us above an hour and an half.

The little valley, in which theſe huts are ſituated, is called *Wald-nacht Alp*, contains a ſmall quantity of underwood, and feeds a hundred and thirty-three cows, beſide a few ſheep, goats, and hogs. The peaſants employed in tending the cattle and making cheeſe, uſually arrive on the 20th of June, and remain about a hundred days: the owner of the hut in which we dried our clothes, makes every day, during that period, two cheeſes of twenty-five pounds each, from the milk of eighteen cows. Having taken ſome refreſhment, and recovered our fatigue, we continued along the valley, through ſome groves of poplars and firs, and at its furtheſt extremity we came to a ſingle cottage ſeated on an eminence, the firſt houſe on this ſide which is habitable in winter. A little further we had a proſpect of the town and environs of Altdorf; the fertile vale of Schackeren, which, though a very ſteep aſcent, yet from this elevation ſeemed a level plain; the lake of Uri, ſcarcely viſible, which looked like a ſmall rivulet; and the diſtant mountains reaching beyond the St. Gothard. The deſcent, through rich fields and paſtures, was extremely ſteep and tedious, as the graſs was rendered ſlippery by the rain; and we did not arrive at Altdorf till ſeven in the evening, wet and exceedingly fatigued, but much pleaſed with our expedition. This paſſage from Engelberg to Altdorf is eſtimated at ſeven leagues. A *chaſſeur* may perform it in four hours; a traveller accuſtomed to mountains, in ſix; and a perſon unuſed to ſuch fatigue, will require eight or ten hours.

LETTER 27.

Valley of Schoellenen—Devil's Bridge—Valley of Urſeren—Valley and Mountain of St. Gothard—Sources of the Teſino and Reuſs.

St. Gothard, Auguſt 9.

SWITZERLAND is a moſt delightful country, and merits the particular obſervation of the traveller, as well for the diverſity of the ſeveral governments, as for the wonderful beauties of nature: but the impoſitions of the innkeepers, and the difficulty of procuring horſes*, are inevitable taxes for the enjoyment of theſe its *delights*. Theſe little inconveniences, however, ſhould be borne with patience and good-humour; nor will I trouble you with any ſplenetic complaints of thoſe unpleaſant circumſtances which muſt occur to all travellers.

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* I would recommend to all travellers, who traverſe the canton of Uri in order to viſit the alps, either to hire horſes at Lucerne, or to beſpeak them againſt their arrival at Altdorf. If we fortunately had not taken the latter precaution, we ſhould have found no leſs difficulty in procuring horſes in 1785, than in 1776; notwithſtanding all the good offices of our landlord at the Black Lion; who, knowing that I was the author of Letters on Switzerland, was extremely anxious

On quitting Altdorf, we paſſed at firſt through a fertile plain of paſture, in which the inhabitants were employed in mowing the ſecond crop of hay; and in about nine miles began aſcending. The road winds continually along the ſteep ſides of the mountains; and the Reuſs in many places entirely fills up the bottom of the valley, which is very narrow: that river ſometimes appeared ſeveral hundred yards below us; here ruſhing a conſiderable way through a foreſt of pines; there falling in caſcades, and loſing itſelf in the valley. We paſſed it ſeveral times, over bridges of a ſingle arch, and beheld it tumbling under our feet, in channels which it had forced through the ſolid rock; innumerable torrents roaring down the ſides of the mountains; which were ſometimes bare, ſometimes finely wooded, with here and there ſome fantaſtic trees clothing the ſides of the

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anxious to wipe away certain aſperſions, which, in the beginning of this letter, ſeem to glance at his native town. The two Mr. Cliffords, whom we met at Engelberg, and who, to our great ſatisfaction, accompanied us in our tour as far as Geneva, were obliged to purſue their journey on foot, not being able to procure more than one horſe, which was appropriated to their baggage.

precipice, and half obſcuring the river from our view. The darkneſs and ſolitude of the foreſts; the occaſional livelineſs and variety of the verdure; immenſe fragments of rock blended with enormous maſſes of ice; rocks of an aſtoniſhing height piled upon one another, and ſhutting in the vale;—ſuch are the ſublime and magnificent ſcenes with which this romantic country abounds.

Near Waſen, is the valley of Meyen; the torrent that daſhes through it, and falls into the Reuſs, forms a ſeries of moſt ſuperb cataracts, which the traveller may enjoy by venturing to the edge of the precipice, and ſupporting himſelf againſt an impending pine, that overlooks the gulf.

We ſet out this morning early from Waſen, a ſmall village where we paſſed the night; and continued advancing for ſome way on a rugged aſcent, through the ſame wild and beautiful tract of country, which I have juſt attempted to deſcribe. We could ſcarcely walk a hundred yards without croſſing ſeveral torrents, that rolled with violence from the tops of the mountains. This being one of the great paſſages into Italy, we met many pack-horſes laden with merchandiſe: and as the road in particular parts is very narrow, it required ſome dexterity in the horſes to paſs one another without joſtling. Theſe roads, impending over precipices, cannot fail of inſpiring terror to thoſe travellers, who are unaccuſtomed to them; and more particularly as the mules and horſes do not keep in the middle of the track, but continue croſſing from the ſide of the mountain towards the edge of an abyſs, then turn aſlant abruptly; thus forming, if I may ſo expreſs myſelf, a conſtant zig-zag.

Thus far the valley of Schoellenen appeared to be tolerably well peopled; and we paſſed through ſeveral villages ſituated towards the bottom and leſs narrow part of the valley: the ſides of the mountains were occaſionally ſtrewed with cottages: covered with foreſts; or enriched with paſtures. Still continuing to aſcend, the country beyond Waſen ſuddenly changing, became more wild and perfectly deſert: there were no traces of any trees, except here and there a ſtubbed pine; the rocks were bare, craggy, and impending; not the leaſt ſign of any habitation; and ſcarcely a blade of graſs to be ſeen. We then came to a bridge thrown acroſs a deep chaſm over the Reuſs, which here forms a conſiderable cataract down the ſhagged ſides of the mountain, and over immenſe fragments of rock which it has undermined in its courſe. This bridge is called

Teufels-bruck, or the Devil's bridge. As we ſtood upon the bridge admiring the cataract, we were covered with a kind of drizzling rain; the river throwing up the ſpray to a conſiderable height. Theſe are ſublime ſcenes of horror, of which thoſe who have not been ſpectators, can form no idea: they defy the repreſentations of painting or poetry *.

Not far from this deſolate landſcape, the road led us into the *Urner-loch*, a ſubterraneous paſſage cut through a rock of granite †, which opened at the oppoſite entrance into the ſerene and cultivated valley of Urſeren: the objects that preſented themſelves were, a village backed by a high mountain, on the ſides of which was a wood of pines; peaſants at work in the fields; cattle feeding in the meadows; and the river, which lately daſhed over rude fragments of rock in a continual cataract, now flowed ſilently and ſmoothly; while the ſun, which had been hidden from us in the deep valley, here ſhone in its full ſplendour. In general there is a regular gradation from exteme wildneſs to high cultivation; but here the tranſition was abrupt, and the change inſtantaneous: it was like the lifting up of a curtain, and had all the appearance of enchantment.

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* Many travellers have been diſappointed on the *firſt* view of the Devil's bridge. It ought therefore to be remarked, that the bridge itſelf, though of difficult execution, is a trifling object, and not ſo ſtupendous as many others in Switzerland; and that it is the wild and majeſtic ſcenery that aſtoniſhes and exalts the beholder.

† This paſſage was hollowed in 1707, by Peter Moretini, a native of Val-Maggia, at the expence of the inhabitants in the valley of Urſeren. It is nine feet in breadth, ten in height, and two hundred and twenty in length.

In this valley are four villages; Uſeren, Hopital, Realp, and Zundorf; forming a ſmall republic under the protection of Uri. The territory of this little commonwealth is about nine miles in length and two in breadth, and contains about thirteen hundred ſouls. The people elect, in their general aſſembly, their *Talamman* or chief, as alſo ſome other magiſtrates: and there is a permanent council of fifteen members, who aſſemble in each of the different diſtricts. The inhabitants enjoy great privileges; but are not abſolutely independent: for in civil cauſes an appeal lies from their courts of juſtice to Altdorf; and in criminal proceedings, two deputies from the government of Uri are preſent at the trial, and deliver to the judges of the valley the opinion of the council of Altdorf.

Notwithſtanding the conſiderable elevation of this valley, and the coldneſs of the air even at this ſeaſon of the year, it produces excellent paſture. The only wood therein, is the ſmall plantation of pines above the village of Urſeren, which is preſerved with uncommon care and reverence, and a ſmall quantity of under-wood and ſtubbed willows, that feather the banks of the Reuſs. In the adjacent country there are ſeveral mines of chryſtal; of which a conſiderable quantity is exported. The language of the country is a kind of provincial German, but almoſt every perſon ſpeaks Italian.

The valley of Urſeren is a ſmall plain ſurrounded by high mountains, covered with paſture to a conſiderable height, whoſe tops are barren rocks, in many parts capped with ſnow. Near the middle of this beautiful plain we turned to the left, and entered the valley of St. Gothard, filled with the ruins of broken mountains; the Reuſs, a moſt rapid and vehement torrent, burſting through it; on each ſide, immenſe ſhattered blocks of granite, of a beautiful greyiſh colour (and of which the ſummits of theſe alps are compoſed) confuſedly piled together.

The valley of St. Gothard, though not ſo wild as that of Schoellenen, is yet exceedingly dreary. It does not contain a ſingle ſhed, or produce a ſingle tree; and the ſides of the mountains are barely ſprinkled with ſhort herbage. The extremity is cloſed by the ſtill ruder and naked rocks of the Feudo, ſupporting in its hollows vaſt maſſes of ſnow, while the ſuperb glacier of the Locendro towers above the adjacent heights. It is about two leagues from Urſeren to this place; but the road, conſidering the ruggedneſs of the rocks and the ſteepneſs of the aſcent, is not incommodious: it is from nine to twelve feet broad; and is almoſt as well paved as the ſtreets of London.

We are now lodged at a houſe inhabited by two Italian friars from the convent of Capuchins at Milan, who receive all ſtrangers that paſs through theſe inhoſpitable regions. One of the friars is abſent, ſo that I am in poſſeſſion of his bedchamber: it is a ſnug little room, where a man may ſleep very well without being an anchorite; and which, after the fatigues of our journey, I enjoy with a ſatisfaction much too ſenſible to envy the luxury of a palace. Our hoſt has juſt ſupplied us with a dinner, conſiſting of delicious trout, with which the neighbouring lake of Locendro abounds, eggs, and milk, together with excellent butter and cheeſe; both made in this dreary ſpot.

Upon our arrival we were rejoiced to find a good fire; the weather being ſo exceedingly cold, that I, who was only clad in a thin camlet coat, entered the houſe half frozen. It is ſingular to find, at the diſtance of only a day's journey, ſuch a difference in the climate: the air is abſolutely in a freezing ſtate; and I juſt now paſſed a boy at work, who was blôwing his fingers to warm them. If the cold is ſo piercing in the midſt of ſummer, how intolerable muſt it prove in December? The ſnow begins to fall the latter end of September; and the lakes about this ſpot are frozen during eight months in the year.

I am juſt returned from viſiting the ſources of the Teſino and the Reuſs; which riſe within a ſhort diſtance of each other. The Teſino has three principal ſources in the chain of the St. Gothard. The firſt is a ſpring which riſes towards the bottom of the Proſa, and is entirely covered with frozen ſnow, or, when that is melted, with fallen fragments of rock, through which it trickles in numerous currents, that unite and help to form a ſmall lake: from this piece of water it communicates with two other lakes, and iſſues in a more conſiderable torrent.

The lake of La Sella, in another part of the eaſtern chain, ſupplies the ſecond ſource; and the third is furniſhed by the ſnows of Mount Feudo. Theſe three ſources uniting with another branch, that flows from the Furca through the valley of

Bedreto, ſorm one great torrent, which takes its courſe towards the ſouth, enters the lake of Locarno, and traverſing part of the Milaneſe falls into the Po.

The ſource of the Reuſs is the lake of Locendro, an oblong piece of water about three miles in circumference, which is emboſomed between the mountains of Petina and Locendro, and is almoſt entirely ſupplied by the immenſe glaciers which crown the ſummit of the Locendro. The ſtream iſſuing from this lake ruſhes down the valley of St. Gothard, and joining in the vale of Urſeren the two branches which come from the Furca on one ſide, and from the Griſon mountains on the other, flows towards the north into the lake of Lucerne, and from thence throws itſelf into the Aar.

In alluſion to the oppoſite courſes of the Teſino and the Reuſs, M. de Boufflers ſaid, that from the top of the St. Gothard, a man might ſpit into the ocean and the Mediterranean.

Within a day's journey is the ſource of the Rhine in the Griſons; and about the diſtance of three leagues, that of the Rhone in the Furca: which mountain we ſhall paſs to-morrow. We are ſtill ſurrounded by very high, rugged rocks, and inacceſſible glaciers; ſo that our view is much confined; and though I walked above a league towards Italy, in hopes of enjoying an extenſive proſpect over that delightful country, yet I could obſerve nothing but rocks, precipices, and torrents.

I am at this inſtant near * ſeven thouſand feet perpendicular above the level of the ſea: no inconſiderable height, moſt certainly. Nevertheleſs, if I gave credit to thoſe, who aſſert, that this mountain is the loftieſt point of Europe, I ſhould raiſe myſelf in idea above twice as high: but I have reaſon to think, that this opinion is founded upon falſe calculations. Mikeli, who meaſured the principal mountains of Switzerland, but who is very inaccurate in his calculations, conſiders the St. Gothard as the higheſt; and he eſtimates its elevation above the ſea as equal to 17,600 feet. But the truth is, that, ſo far from being of that height, it is by no means the higheſt ground of Switzerland; and there is probably not one mountain, either in Europe, Aſia, or Africa, of that altitude. According to general Pfiffer, the ſummit of the St. Gothard riſes above the ſea 9,075 feet: an elevation conſiderably leſs than that of Ætna and Teneriff;

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* According to Mr. de Sauſſure, the ſpot upon which the houſe of the Capuchin friars is built, is 1,061 French toiſes above the ſea.

and ſtill more inferior to ſeveral mountains in the great chain of alps, to which we are bending our courſe.

POSTSCRIPT.

Auguſt 1785.

ON my entrance into the little plain in which the friar's houſe is ſituated, although the air was exceedingly keen, I did not experience that piercing cold which I felt in 1776: but the day was fine, and the ſun ſhone unclouded. When we arrived at the houſe, the friar was ſaying maſs to an audience of about twenty perſons; many of whom deſcend from the neighbouring alps, where they are tending cattle, to divine ſervice on Sundays and feſtivals. At the concluſion of maſs, the friar, whoſe name is Francis, immediately recollected, and received me with great ſatisfaction. He is well known to all travellers that paſs this way, having already inhabited this dreary ſpot above twenty years. Since my laſt expedition, he has conſiderably enlarged his houſe, and rendered it extremely commodious. It contains at preſent, beſide ſeveral ſitting-rooms, kitchens, and one apartment for the family, nine ſmall but neat bedchambers appropriated to travellers. The expence of this addition has already amounted to £. 300, part of which he collected in various diſtricts of Switzerland; and an equal ſum is required to diſcharge the preſent debts, and to make the further neceſſary improvements; which ſum he intends to procure by another collection.

Friar Francis obligingly accompanied me about the environs, and favoured me with the following particulars, in addition to my former account.

The chain of mountains, which immediately ſurround this place, takes the general appellation of St. Gothard; and its particular parts are called by different names; of which the principal are, the Salla, Proſa, and Surecha, to the eaſt; the Feudo, the Petina, and the Locendro, to the weſt; to the north, the Urſino; and to the ſouth, the ridge of naked and piked rocks of the Val-Maggia. Of theſe the Feudo is the moſt elevated: its higheſt point riſes above 2,000 feet above the plain in which ſtands the friar's houſe, and requires three hours to reach it. There are ſix paſtures on the neighbouring heights; on which are fed two hundred cows, a hundred and fifty goats, and thirty horſes.

On examining, at mid-day, Reaumur's thermometer, placed in the ſhade in a northern aſpect, I was much ſurpriſed to find, that the mercury ſtood at 6$\frac{6}{10}$ above freezing point, or 46 of Fahrenheit, although the northern wind was exceedingly keen, and, if I had judged from my own feelings, I ſhould have concluded that the air was in a freezing ſtate.

About four years ago, the elector of Bavaria ſent to the friar ſeveral barometers, thermometers, and other meteorological inſtruments, which has enabled him to note the variations of the atmoſphere, and to form a ſeries of obſervations, of which he favoured me with the following reſult.

In the moſt extreme cold he ever experienced in theſe parts, the mercury in Reaumur's thermometer fell to 19 degrees below freezing point, or—10 of Fahrenheit.

In 1784. Greateſt heat on the 13th of September, it ſtood at 13, or 61½ of Fahrenheit. Greateſt cold at—17, or—8½ of Fahrenheit.

M. de Luc's barometer never roſe
higher than — 22. 3. 1.
or fell lower than — 20. 9. 9.

It appeared from obſervations made in 1784, that the average ſtate of the thermometer and barometer was as follows.

	Thermometer.		Barometer.
Nine in the morning,	$2\frac{1}{10}$ of Reaumur,	or 28 of Fahrenheit	21 9 2
Mid-day —	0 —	or 32 —	21 9 3
Nine in the afternoon,	1—3 lines, —	or $29\frac{1}{2}$ —	21 9 4

In the ſame year it ſnowed during ſome part of 118 days; rained 78; cloudy 293; tempeſt, with hail, 12; thunder and lightning 22; rainbow 4. Halos round the ſun 2, and round the moon 2. Serene days 87.

LETTER 28.

Paſſage and Glacier of the Furca—Source of the Rhone.

Munſter in the Vallais, Auguſt 11.

I Arrived here late yeſterday evening; and ſo fatigued that I was incapable of writing: but I am this morning quite refreſhed with a comfortable ſleep, and in ſpirits to continue my journal. I took leave of our hoſt of St. Gothard, after having wiſhed him a pleaſant winter in that dreary ſituation; and walked alone, for about two leagues, down the valley of St. Gothard. I frequently quit my company, and either go on before, or ſtay behind, that I may enjoy uninterrupted, and with a ſort of melancholy pleaſure, theſe ſublime exhibitions of Nature in her moſt awful and tremendous forms. I entered the valley of Urſeren at Hopital; and was again ſtruck with the ſtrong contraſt between that cultivated vale and the deſolate country I had juſt quitted. At the ſame time I enjoyed a moſt ſublime view of the high chain that encloſes the vale of Urſeren; and particularly noticed the towering rocks, which ſtand in the country of the Griſons, one of them ſupporting on its rugged top a glacier, from which the Rhine takes its riſe. We paſſed through the ſmall village of Zundorf; and ſtopped at Realp, to procure ſome refreſhment, and bait our horſes. From thence we ſoon arrived at the extremity of the valley of Urſeren; where we began aſcending a path ſo narrow, ſteep, and rugged, that I could not forbear ſuſpecting we had miſſed our way, as it ſeemed almoſt impracticable for horſes: upon their arrival, however, I mounted, being fatigued with my walk from St. Gothard to Realp. It was a ſingle path, up a ſteep mountain, where a horſe, with ſome dexterity, could juſt put one leg beſore the other: and this path ſometimes lay upon the edge of a precipice, very craggy and ſtony; where, if my ſteed had happened to ſtumble, we muſt both inevitably have periſhed. But as I knew he had no more fancy than myſelf to roll down the precipice, I flung the bridle upon his mane, and entruſted myſelf to his direction. Nor had I any reaſon to repent of my confidence: for, in the bad and dangerous parts, he never once tripped; where it was ſmoother and ſafer, indeed, he knew he had a licence to be more careleſs.

We came at length to a torrent, which we paſſed by means of a plank, after having got our horſes over with ſome difficulty: a little way farther we arrived at another, deeper and more violent than the former, over which there was no bridge; nor the leaſt appearance of any track on the other ſide; a conſiderable diſtance from any habitation; and our guide unacquainted with the road. After ſome obſervation we diſcovered, that the mountain had lately fallen down, and overwhelmed the path; leaving only a very faint narrow track on the ſide of the precipice: along which my companions ſcrambled upon their hands and knees. While I was croſſing the torrent on horſeback, I heard a ſcream; and turning round, ſaw one of our ſervants ſeized with a panic on the very edge of the precipice, and vehemently exclaiming, that he could neither get backwards or forwards. Nevertheleſs, with ſome aſſiſtance, he paſſed over; declaring, at the ſame time, that he would take care never to put himſelf again in a ſimilar ſituation. We now regained a kind of path, but ſo extremely ſteep, that we prudently diſmounted, and ſuffered the horſes to make their own way. With much difficulty, and after having croſſed ſeveral large drifts of ice and ſnow, the torrents at the ſame time rumbling under our feet; we reached, by a very ſteep aſcent, the ſummit of the Furca. A number of rugged and forked rocks, piled one above another, have occaſioned, it is ſaid, this chain to be called the *Furca*. The country immediately around was as dreary and deſolate as the valley of Schoellenen; all vegetation ſeemed to have ceaſed: lower down, the mountains were covered with herbage and ſweetſcented flowers; near us, but higher, on the left, between the Blaueberg and the Luhgnetz, lay a large body of ice, from which iſſued a torrent *, probably one of the firſt ſources of the Rhone. In a word, the ſeveral majeſtic objects that preſented themſelves to our view, formed a moſt aſtoniſhing and ſublime ſcene.

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* I was informed by a friar of Realp, who is much uſed to travel in theſe parts, that this torrent, which is turbid in ſummer, is, in winter, as tranſparent as the cleareſt ſpring; and that when the accumulation of the ſnow prevents it from

From hence we deſcended broken rocks and craggy precipices for a conſiderable way. By this time I was ſo conſiderably fatigued, that I was glad to ſit down, and take ſome refreſhment, conſiſting of bread, cheeſe, and hard eggs; the only proviſion we could procure at Realp. We were ſeated by a ſtream of clear water ripling down the ſide of a mountain, ſo exceedingly ſteep, that our humble repaſt would have rolled away, if it had not been well ſupported. In full view before us was the glacier of the Furca; an immenſe valley of ice, extending at leaſt three miles in length, and near a mile in breadth between the Gletcherberg and the Satzberg, rocks more ſhagged, if poſſible, than any of the neighbouring mountains: it ſtretches from their feet, fills up the intervening chaſm, and reaches almoſt to their ſummits. The ſun ſhining in an oppoſite direction, it gliſtened like chryſtal; while the blue tints, reflected on the ſurface, appeared inexpreſſibly beautiful. The

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from flowing under the glacier of the Furca, it then forms a lake, runs over the ice, and ruſhes to the Vallais with the waters it receives in its courſe.

ice ſeemed to break in ſeveral parts, as we heard ſome loud and deep cracks; the torrent of the Rhone at the ſame time roaring beneath. That river is chiefly formed by this glacier: the ſmall torrent, which burſts from the body of ice between the Blaueberg and the Lungnetz, being joined by ſeveral ſtreams, loſes itſelf under the vaſt arch of ice that forms the bottom of the glacier; iſſues conſiderably augmented; and is the great and principal ſource from whence the Rhone takes its *riſe*. The range of mountains on which we were ſitting, was overſpread with underwood and herbage; and ſome cattle were feeding along the heights: a fine contraſt to the ſterility of the oppoſite chain; which appeared, for ſome extent, nothing but bare rock, except where it was covered with ice and frozen ſnow.

After we had finiſhed our banquet, and repoſed ourſelves for a ſhort time, contemplating the ſingularity of the ſcene; we deſcended to the bottom of the glacier, where we admired the Rhone breaking forth with violence from the bed of ice, near the huge fragments of a fallen rock. We now followed the courſe of that river, and proceeded down a mountain ſo ſteep, that the ſeveral parts of the road winding along its ſides, were frequently parallel to each other. The ſcenery of the valley, which we now entered, was of the ſame kind as that of Schoellenen; the Rhone foaming with amazing rapidity, and falling in a continual cataract at the foot of irregular and immeaſurable alps. We travelled through this valley above two leagues, perpetually aſcending or deſcending the rugged ſides of rocks; one moment cloſe to the river, and the next ſome hundred yards above it. At firſt the rocks were either bare, or ſtudded with a few ſtraggling pines; but as we advanced, they became more and more clothed with wood and verdure: ſtill, however, we obſerved no traces of any habitation; and we had now meaſured at leaſt fifteen miles, from our firſt quitting the valley of Urſeren, without having ſeen a ſingle dwelling. I was here ſo ſtruck with the beauty of the foreſts through which we paſſed, and the luxuriance of the paſture, that I could not avoid expreſſing my aſtoniſhment on obſerving no appearance of any habitation in theſe delightful ſpots. I had ſcarcely made the remark, when four or five cottages, ſituated on the other ſide of the Rhone, upon a beautiful declivity, announced our approach to the Vallais. Not long afterwards, we unexpectedly came to an opening which commanded an extenſive view of that fertile vale, containing ſeveral ſcattered villages. In this very ſpot a peaſant of taſte, has built his cottage. Here we quitted the bad road; and deſcended into the Vallais.

We had propoſed paſſing the night at Oberwald, after the fatigues of the day: but, upon inquiry, we found it could ſupply us with no refreſhment. The maſter of a little hovel, which was called an inn, pointed to a large cheeſe, and told us that was all his proviſion; it was his bread, his fiſh, and his meat. Meeting with no better reception at Obergeſtlen, we continued on to Munſter, where we did not arrive till late: here we found an excellent inn for this country, which afforded good bread, and even ſome meat; but what was far more comfortable to me, a quiet room and a clean bed.

I am, &c.

LETTER 29.

Mount Grimſel — Source of the Aar — Of the Chamois.

Spital upon the Grimſel, Auguſt 11.

THE Vallaiſans are remarkably attached to their liberty. Upon our quitting Munſter, this morning, we joined company with a peaſant, with whom we had a long converſation. He demanded our opinion of the country; and, pointing to the mountains, exclaimed: "Behold our "walls and bulwarks; Conſtantinople is not ſo "ſtrongly fortified." This upper part of the Vallais, I ſhould imagine, is not much frequented by travellers, if we may judge from the curioſity of the people, who all came out to gaze upon us; and when they diſcovered that we were Engliſhmen, they obſerved us with greater attention. But what particularly ſurpriſed us was, that the peaſant above-mentioned inquired concerning the ſtate of our war with the Americans. It ſeemed indeed ſomewhat extraordinary, that a common peaſant of the Vallais, ſhould know there was ſuch a place as Conſtantinople; but it was not leſs ſurpriſing, that he ſhould ever have heard of the conteſt between Great Britain and her American colonies.

After returning about a league thro' the ſame fertile and well-cultivated country which we traverſed yeſterday, we left the plain, and aſcended the Grimſel: one of thoſe alps which ſeparate the Vallais from the canton of Berne. We employed four hours in climbing a ſteep and craggy road to the ſummit; and ſhould have conſidered the attempt as ſcarcely practicable, had we not been encouraged by the experience of yeſterday.

day. We croſſed the ſeveral ſhades of vegetation: in the valley, and the lower parts of the mountain, corn and rich meadows; then foreſts of larch and pine; next, ſhort graſs, together with ſeveral ſpecies of herbs, that afford exquiſite paſture to the cattle; to theſe ſucceeded the various tribes of moſſes and lichens; and then bare rock and ſnow. It would be curious to conſtruct, or at leaſt to imagine, a ſcale of vegetation, according to the idea of a French writer; who aſſerts, that exceſſive cold and exceſſive heat are equally pernicious. The tops of theſe high mountains are barren, and produce no plants; and at certain heights nothing but moſſes and lichens will vegetate: the ſame occurs in climates where the heat is intolerable; as no other vegetable productions are obſerved in the burning ſands of Africa. The lichens and moſſes then, which ſupport the cold better than other plants, would form the firſt degree of a ſcale adjuſted to determine, how far vegetation accords with the temperature of the atmoſphere. The ſame families of plants, as they bear alſo the heat much better than any other, would occupy the laſt degree in the ſcale above-mentioned. Thus, according to this fanciful ſcale, the two extremes touch each other ſurpriſingly.

From the top of the Grimſel we deſcended about two miles, and arrived at a ſmall plain or hollow in the midſt of the mountains; containing one ſolitary hovel: and from this hovel I am now writing to you. Notwithſtanding the wretched appearance it made at firſt ſight, we found in this deſert ſpot all the accommodations we could wiſh for, except beds; and theſe are the leſs neceſſary, after our ſound ſleep laſt night. Not to mention excellent cheeſe, butter, and milk (our ordinary fare) we obtained ſome good wine, a ſmall portion of kid, and a boiled *marmot* *, which we have juſt devoured; although at another time we ſhould have revolted at the very idea. The landlord is ſtationed in this forlorn region by the canton of Berne, and he reſides in it about nine months. He uſually arrives here on the firſt of March, and retires in the beginning of December. His buſineſs is to receive all travellers; upon condition, however, that they pay for their accommodations. When he quits the place, he leaves a certain quantity of cheeſe, hard bread, ſalted proviſion, and fuel, in caſe any unfortunate wanderer ſhould happen to come this way, when the winter has ſet in: and we obſerved long poles fixed on both ſides of the track, at ſmall diſtances from each other, in order to point out the path to travellers, who may chance to paſs this mountain after the ſnow has begun to fall.

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* See an account of the Marmot in Vol. iii.

The road is ſeldom open for horſes before the firſt of June. Near the houſe, upon the top of a ſmall rock, our hoſt has contrived a kind of little garden, by bringing ſome earth from the neighbouring paſtures: and this ſmall piece of ground ſupplies him tolerably well with turnips and cabbages; although, on account of the height of the circumjacent mountains, it does not long enjoy the warmth of the ſun.

Numerous herds of goats are kept, during the ſummer months, upon theſe mountains: they are let out every morning to feed upon the paſtures; and return every evening before ſun-ſet to be milked and houſed. It was a pleaſing ſight to obſerve them marching homeward in the ſame herd; and following each other down the broken precipices, and along the rugged ſides of the rocks.

This hovel, beſide the ſtorehouſes for cheeſes, contains only a ſmall kitchen, a bed-chamber appropriated to the family, and a room, in which we are now ſitting. We occupy nearly one ſide: the other is taken up by our ſervants, the landlord and his wife, and half a dozen honeſt labourers: the latter are partaking of their homely ſupper, with all the reliſh of well-earned hunger; and are enjoying a ſhort reſpite from their toil, with that noiſy mirth which characteriſes this claſs of people.

The ſources of the Aar are in theſe mountains. Near our hovel are three lakes that ſupply waters to that river, which rolls down in an impetuous torrent from the neighbouring glaciers. While dinner was preparing, I walked by the ſide of that river ſearching for cryſtals; which are very common in theſe parts: we found pieces of divers colours, white, black, yellow, and green. Theſe mountains certainly abound alſo in rich veins of gold, and other metals; a conſiderable quantity of gold-duſt being found in the bed of the Aar *, and in the various torrents. I can conceive nothing more fatal to the intereſts of Switzerland, nor more repugnant to the liberties of the people, than to have theſe mines of gold or ſilver traced and opened. A ſudden overflow of riches would effectually change and corrupt their manners: and it is an inconteſtable truth, that the real power of a country, not ambitious of making conqueſts, is derived leſs from the wealth than from the induſtry of its ſubjects; the happineſs of a people, as well as of an individual, conſiſting in being contented.

What a chaos of mountains are here heaped upon one another! a dreary, deſolate, but ſub-

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* It has been ſuggeſted to me, that no gold-duſt is found in the Aar, until it has received the Reichen-bach.

lime appearance: it looks like the ruins and wreck of a world.

On the Grimſel, Auguſt 29, 1786.

You will recollect that, in 1776 *, I deſcribed the paſſage of the Furca as extremely difficult, and attended with ſome danger. But that was my firſt eſſay over the leſs frequented alps. How different are our ſenſations at different intervals! To-day, on meaſuring the ſame ground, though I did not find the road as *ſmooth as a bowling-green*, I yet never once diſmounted; but rode with my Letters on Switzerland in my hand, occaſionally making notes and obſervations: it muſt, however, be confeſſed, that in many parts, where a faint path along the crags and impending precipices was ſcarcely obvious, my ſituation was not very favourable for accurate compoſition.

From the top of the Furca, inſtead of immediately deſcending and purſuing the ſame road which I followed in 1776, we ſent our horſes forwards, and aſcended the Galleberg to the upper part of the glacier of the Furca: from thence we looked down upon the Vallais and the Rhone flowing through it, as upon a ſmall field watered by a rill; above and around, and as far as the eye could reach, we obſerved numberleſs pointed alps, and particularly that ſtupendous chain called the *Aar-Gletchers*, which compriſes, among many others; the Finſter-aar-horn, the Wetter-horn, the Jung-frau-horn, and the Schreck-horn.

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* See the preceding Letter.

The upper part of this glacier of the Furca, is far more beautiful than the lower extremity; the ſnow is of a more virgin white; the pyramids of ice more bold; and the blue tints more lively and animated. Having enjoyed in different directions this icy ſcene, we deſcended near the edge of the glacier, and refreſhed ourſelves with ſome water from two tranſparent ſprings called *Aughſtweicht-brunnen*, that burſt from the ſides of the rock, at a ſmall diſtance from each other. We then went down a very ſteep deſcent, till we joined the track which I purſued in 1776. I recollected, with a pleaſing ſatisfaction, the torrent, near which we eat on that occaſion our humble repaſt; and came to the Rhone about half a mile below the ſpot where it burſts in two ſtreams from the bottom of the glacier. In order to have a nearer view, we croſſed the two ſtreams, which, though ſcarcely three feet in depth, ruſhed with ſuch exceeding violence, as almoſt to overturn the guide, who conveyed me acroſs on his ſhoulders. Having admired the arch of ice, and paid our obeiſance to the majeſtic habitation of the River-God, we walked at the foot of the

Satzberg, and noticed ſeveral lively ſprings iſſuing from the ground, which the inhabitants call *cold waters*; and a little further three warm ſources, in which the mercury in Reaumur's thermometer ſtood at ten degrees above freezing point, or 55 of Fahrenheit. Theſe ſources, uniting with ſeveral cold ſprings, fall, within a few paces from their riſe, into the great torrent that flows from the glacier, and are uſually conſidered as the *true* ſources of the Rhone. That honour is appropriated to theſe little rills, becauſe, being of an equal temperature in all ſeaſons of the year, they do not owe their origin, like the *cold waters*, to the melted ſnow and ice, and are as abundant in winter as in ſummer. It appears, however, extremely inconſiſtent, to dignify theſe little ſtreams with the *excluſive* title of the ſources of the Rhone; for that river undoubtedly owes its origin and greatneſs to the perpetual and inexhauſtible ſupplies from the ſurrounding glaciers.

We had now employed above nine hours from the time of our quitting the valley of Urſeren; and ſhould have continued much longer amid theſe majeſtic ſcenes, if the declining ſun had not reminded us of approaching night. Being ſtill at a conſiderable diſtance from any habitation, we continued our route, and began aſcending

ing the Grimſel, near the warm ſources abovementioned. The track, though extremely ſteep, and as perpendicular as a man could well mount, was not dangerous, becauſe the rocks were thickly covered with ſmall ſhrubs, herbage, and moſſes.

After an hour and a quarter's tedious aſcent, we reached the ſummit of the Grimſel, and deſcending a rugged ridge of granite rocks, we looked down upon a lake, from which iſſues a ſtream that falls into the Rhone. A little further we paſſed ſeveral ſmall rills and dark lakes which ſupply the Aar; in leſs than an hour we entered the road which leads to the Vallais, and came to the place of our deſtination, the ſame hovel on the Grimſel, where I paſſed the night on my former expedition. We arrived there about eight in the evening, after a journey which employed us more than twelve hours.

No ſituation can exceed the ſolitary horror of the ſcenery on the top of the Grimſel. Its appearance reſembled the inſide of a mine, and ſeemed as if the bowels of the earth had been violently rent aſunder; reminding me of that ſublime deſcription in the Æneis, when the inſide of Cacus's cave is inſtantaneouſly laid open by the arm of Hercules.

At ſpecus, et Caci detecta apparuit ingens
Regia, et umbroſæ penitus patuere cavernæ.
Non ſecus ac ſi quâ penitus vi terra dehiſcens
Infernas reſeret ſedes, et regna recludat
Pallida, Diis inviſa; ſuperq; immane barathrum
Cernatur, trepidentque immiſſo lumine manes *.

On entering the hovel I immediately recognized the ſame landlord, who was ſtationed here in 1776, to whom, at that time, I never expected to have owed a ſecond reception in ſo forlorn a ſpot. While ſupper was preparing, a peaſant and our guide, forgetful of his great fatigue, ſuddenly ſtarted up at the ſound of their favourite air, the *Renz des vaches*, played upon a rebec by a ſhepherd, and danced ſeveral *allemandes*, perfectly in time, and not without grace; a pictureſque group of ſpectators looking on and applauding.

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* *Dryden's Virgil*, Book viii.

The court of Cacus ſtands reveal'd to ſight;
The cavern glares with new-admitted light,
So pent, the vapours with a rumbling ſound
Heave from below, and rend the hollow ground.
A ſounding flaw ſucceeds; and from on high,
The gods with hate behold the nether ſky,
The ghoſts repine at violated night,
And curſe th' invading ſun, and ſicken at the ſight.

August 30.

This morning we made a ſhort excurſion to the ſource of the Aar, which takes its riſe in the neighbouring glaciers. In leſs than half an hour we entered a ſmall plain, ſkirted by high mountains, and entirely cloſed by a rugged chain of alps, over which tower the Finſter-Aar and Lauter-Aar-horns, and at whoſe feet ſtretches a glacier ſo entirely covered with earth and ſtones, as to bear, at a ſmall diſtance, the appearance of a ſand-hill. From this glacier iſſues a "*torrent roaring loud*" of troubled waters, which is the ſource of the Lower Aar, and joins, in a few hundred paces, another ſtream called the Upper Aar, that falls from the Zinkeberg: the union of theſe two torrents forms the Aar, which ruſhes over a ſtony bed with great impetuoſity. At preſent it runs in a narrow channel; but at the firſt melting of the ſnow in ſpring, it overflows the whole ſpace between the mountains, and becomes a temporary lake.

Our guide is a *chaſſeur*, who frequently ranges over this vaſt chain of alps, in purſuit of the chamois, an animal remarkable for its activity in ſcouring along the craggy rocks, and in leaping over the precipices. He informed me, that this glacier is the extremity of a valley of ice about twelve miles in length, and from one to four in breadth: it then divides into two branches; one extends towards the Schreckhorn, and the other towards the Vallais.

He expatiated with great enthuſiaſm on the profeſſion of a chaſſeur, though extremely laborious, and at times dangerous. He uſually kills from ſix to fifteen chamois in a year: with the fleſh, which is very delicate, he helps to ſupport his family, and diſpoſes of each ſkin for a guinea. He uſes a rifle-barrelled gun, and generally ſhoots them at the diſtance of three or four hundred yards.

The chamois are very timorous, and conſequently watchful animals. They uſually go out in herds of twenty or thirty; and while they are feeding, one of them poſted on an adjacent height ſtands *centinel*, and is relieved every quarter of an hour by another. The *centinel* looks around with great ſolicitude and attention; and on the leaſt ſuſpicion of danger, alarms the herd by a ſhrill cry; inſtantly the whole troop decamp, one following the other.

The chamois feed on various kinds of herbage, and particularly on the *Lichen Rangiferinus*, or rein-deer lichen, which is found in ſuch great quantities, as in many parts to cover the ſummits and ſides of the mountains. In order to procure their favourite food in winter, they, like the rein-deer, clear away the ſnow with their fore-feet, frequently thawing it with their breath, for the purpoſe of looſening it more eaſily. But when, either from the depth or hardneſs of the ſnow, they cannot penetrate to the lichens, they browſe on the ſaplings of pine and fir.

In ſummer their bodies are of a yellowiſh brown, and whitiſh under the throat; the hair is ſhort and ſmooth: in winter their coat lengthens and grows dark, ſo as to reſemble that of a bear, and entirely to disfigure them. Sometimes, but very rarely, they have been found ſpeckled, or of variegated colours; and lately, a chamois, entirely white, was ſhot upon the Engelberg. It was in all other reſpects ſimilar to a common chamois; and it is uncertain, whether it owed its colour to age or accident.

Linnæus has claſſed the chamois in the goat genus, under the name of *rupicapra*, or mountain-goat; his acquaintance with the antelopes having been too ſlender to enable him to form a genus of antelopes, which Pallas firſt conſtructed, and where he has judiciouſly placed this animal. The example of Pallas has been followed by Pennant and ſucceeding zoologiſts.

I am, &c.

LETTER 30.

Valley of the Aar—Land of Haſli—Meyringen.

Auguſt, 1776.

I FOUND the cold upon the Grimſel more piercing than upon the St. Gothard; and laſt night it even deprived me of my ſleep. But then circumſtances were very different in the two lodgings: for on the St. Gothard I had a comfortable bed; whereas, laſt night, I lay in the hay-loft, without any covering: I declare, my blood has ſcarcely recovered its circulation. Take notice this is the twelfth of Auguſt.

Having quitted our wretched abode on the Grimſel, we paſſed along the valley of the Aar, through an uninterrupted chain of wild, rugged, and uninhabitable alps.

The road along this valley, though much narrower than that from Altdorf to the St. Gothard, is formed in the ſame manner along the ſteep acclivities and declivities, ſometimes laid on arches, and ſometimes carried over bridges thrown acroſs the tremendous precipices. It is paved with flat pieces of granite, ſo ſmooth and ſlippery, that the horſes would have perpetually ſtumbled, if they had not been rough-ſhod. In ſome parts this road ran along the bare and rugged ridges; in others, down ſteps, either cut in the rock, or formed by large ſtones, ſo that for ſeveral paces it reſembled a ſtaircaſe. The whole ſurface of the valley was thickly ſtrewed with vaſt fragments of rock; while thoſe, which ſtill hung on the ſides of the mountains, ſeemed threatening to overwhelm us; the river, during the whole way, thundering along in a continual fall. This valley exhibits the ſame kind of ſcenes to which we have been long accuſtomed; except that the Aar ruſhes with more impetuous rage even than the Rhone or the Reuſs, and is frequently ſo ſwelled with the torrents it receives in its courſe, as to ravage all the adjacent country: we ſaw many marks of theſe terrible devaſtations. We croſſed it in ſeveral places, over ſtone bridges of a ſingle arch, one of which equalled, in the length of its ſpan and drearineſs of the landſcape, the Devil's Bridge in the valley of Schoellenen. About three leagues from Spital, we had a glimpſe, through the trees, of the Aar falling from a conſiderable height. In order to gain a nearer view, we climbed along the ſides of a ſteep rock, well covered with moſs: I leaned againſt a tree that impended over the precipice, and ſaw the river ruſhing from the rock, and ſpreading into a kind of ſemicircular expanſion in its deſcent. It fell with fury into a deep and narrow gulf, and then loſt itſelf in the midſt of the foreſt. The body of water was very conſiderable, and its perpendicular fall, as far as I could judge by the eye, at leaſt one hundred and fifty feet. The ſcenery alſo was ſolemnly majeſtic; the grey rocks on each ſide riſing perpendicularly, and totally bare, except their tops, which were fringed with pines.

This picturesque ſcene appeared to realize a favourite image of claſſic antiquity: as I viewed the Aar pouring its flood of waters from a crevice of the rock, I figured to myſelf the Nile or the Tiber burſting at once from the urn of a River-God.

In our way to Meyringen, we traverſed large foreſts of beech and pines, the Aar roaring along the valley, and the road, which was as craggy and rugged as uſual, inceſſantly aſcending and deſcending. We now paſſed through ſeveral ſmall villages, which afforded a pleaſing ſight, after the deſolate country we had ſo lately quitted; and entered a beautiful little valley of a moſt lively verdure, and delightfully planted. All was calmneſs and repoſe: neither rapid river nor roaring torrent to interrupt the unuſual ſtillneſs and tranquillity of the ſcene. This ſhort interval of ſilence, rendered us more ſenſibly affected with the turbulence of the Aar and the loud clamour of the cataracts.

From this ſilent and ſequeſtered ſpot, we deſcended to a larger valley on the banks of the Aar. Perhaps no other part of Switzerland would yield more delight and occupation to the landſcape-painter than this pictureſque valley, from the agreeable and ever-changing colour of the rocks which bound it, their ſummits finely broken into irregular and fantaſtic forms, and from the variety and ſize of the fragments diſperſed near the banks of the river. Each fragment, each cottage, each ſhed, and each ſhrub, is a picture; the effect being conſiderably heightened by the tranſparency of the air, and the greatneſs of the back-ground.

We have now viſited the ſources of three great rivers in Switzerland, and have traced their impetuous progreſs through a tract of country, in which nature has exhibited the grandeſt and moſt auguſt of her works. But how impoſſible have I found it to lay before you adequate deſcriptions of theſe majeſtic, variegated, and aſtoniſhing ſcenes! They muſt all of them upon paper neceſſarily appear much the ſame: yet, in fact, every river and cataract, every rock, mountain, and precipice, are reſpectively diſtinguiſhed by an infinite diverſity of modifications, and by all the poſſible forms of beauty, or magnificence; of ſublimity, or horror. But theſe diſcriminating variations, though too viſibly marked to eſcape even the leaſt obſerving eye, elude every kind of repreſentation, and defy the ſtrongeſt powers both of the pen and the pencil. In a word, you muſt not judge of this romantic country, from the faint ſketches I have attempted to delineate: for, upon the whole, they can no more convey an idea of theſe wonderful ſcenes, than if I were to aim at giving ſome notion of the pictures of Raphael and Corregio, by informing you, that they are compoſed of paint and canvaſs.

Meyringen, a large and neat village, is the capital burgh of Haſliland, a diſtrict in the canton of Berne, which enjoys conſiderable privileges. The people are governed by their own magiſtrates, and only take oaths of fidelity to the Sovereign Council of Berne. All the authority, which the bailifs in the other parts of this canton enjoy, is poſſeſſed in a great meaſure by the Landamman; who reſides at Meyringen. He is always a native of Haſliland, and is appointed by the Sovereign Council of Berne, at the recommendation of the bailif of Interlaken. Moſt of the other magiſtrates are elected by the people, who aſſemble as occaſion requires, and are convoked by the Landamman.

The inhabitants are a fine race of people: the men in general remarkably ſtrong and well made; the women tall and handſome. The latter have an elegant manner of wearing their hair, which is commonly of a beautiful brown: it is parted from the top of the forehead, from thence brought round and joined to the locks behind, which either hang down their back in long treſſes, are braided with ribband, or woven round the head in a ſimple plait. But the other part of the dreſs does not in the leaſt correſpond with this elegance; as their ſhapes, naturally fine, are ſpoiled by an abſurd faſhion of wearing their petticoats ſo high, that they all appear as if they were far advanced in pregnancy.

Meyringen is ſituated near the Aar, in a very romantic vale; ſurrounded by meadows of a moſt luxuriant verdure, and ſprinkled with cottages, which are occaſionally ſeparated from each other by huge intervening ſtones and deep channels, the remaining effects of ſtorms and inundations. Cloſe to the village, the Alp-bach, a torrent ſo called, falls from mount Houſli, in two perpendicular caſcades, but with ſo much violence, and in ſo large a body of water, as to cauſe frequent inundations: indeed the burgh itſelf has been in danger of being overwhelmed and deſtroyed by its repeated ravages; againſt which, however, it is now protected, by a wall of conſiderable height and ſolidity. Near this torrent another fall of water, called the Dorf-bach, glides gently down the bare rock; and further on, the Millebach gliſtened as it deſcended through a hanging grove of pines, that feather the ſides of the mountain.

As I ſtood on a platform of rock, about fifty feet above the bottom of the Alpbach, I looked over the delightful vale of Haſli, obſerved Mount Sheidec riſing from the banks of the Aar, and lowering in one part, as if on purpoſe to diſcover three tremendous peaks, in regular gradation one above the other; the one a naked conical rock; the ſecond more tapering and ſprinkled with ſnow; and the third, which is the higheſt point of the Wetterhorn, of a pyramidal form, mantled with gliſtening ice.

The following is the ordinary price of proviſions throughout the mountainous parts of Switzerland.

					s.	*d.*
Butcher's meat, *per* pound			—	—	0	2½
Bread	—	Dº	—	—	0	1½
Butter	—	Dº	—	—	0	2¼
Cheeſe	—	Dº	—	—	0	2½

Salt,

Salt, *per* pound	—	—	—	0	1½
Milk, *per* quart	—	—	—	0	1½
Worſt wine, *per* D°	—	—	—	0	1½
Pays de Vaud wine	—	—	—	0	6*

By this liſt you will perceive, that, in proportion, bread is much dearer than the other articles; and the reaſon is obvious: for theſe mountainous parts conſiſt almoſt entirely of paſturages, and produce little corn. The peaſants, inhabiting the mountainous diſtricts of Switzerland, live chiefly upon milk and potatoes, which are here much cultivated. According to the price of proviſions in England, the above liſt will appear exceedingly reaſonable: but then it ought at the ſame time to be conſidered, that money is very ſcarce in theſe parts. Nor indeed is it ſo much neceſſary in a country, where there is no luxury; where all the peaſantry are tolerably well provided with every neceſſary of life from their own little domains. I had, to-day, a long converſation with one of the lads who accompanied us from Altdorf, and who takes care of our horſes. He lives upon the mountains of Uri; and, as the winter laſts near eight months, during ſome part of which time there can be little communication between the ſeveral cottages, every family lays in ſufficient proviſions for the whole winter. His own family conſiſts of ſeven perſons, and is provided with the following ſtores: ſeven cheeſes, each weighing twenty-five pounds; a hundred and eight pounds of hard bread, twenty-five baſkets of potatoes, each weighing about forty pounds; ſeven goats, and three cows, one of which is killed. The cows and horſes are fed with hay, and the goats with the boughs of firs; which, in a ſcarcity of fodder, are given alſo to the other cattle. During this dreary ſeaſon, the family are employed in making linen and cloth: and, for this purpoſe, a ſmall part of the ground belonging to each cottage, is generally ſown with flax. That plant has lately been much cultivated, and with increaſing ſucceſs, in the mountainous diſtricts of Switzerland.

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* The reader will recollect, that this liſt was taken in 1776, ſince which time the price of proviſions is conſiderably augmented.

The houſes, like thoſe of Appenzel and Glarus, are generally of wood; and it was a natural obſervation of one of our ſervants, in paſſing through a continued chain of rocks, that, as there was no deficiency of ſtone, it ſeemed extraordinary, wood alone ſhould be employed for the purpoſes of building. But it may be remarked, that theſe wooden houſes are ſooner conſtructed, and eaſily repaired; and being formed in a compact manner, with ſmall rooms, and low ceilings, are ſufficiently warm even for ſo cold a climate. The chief objection to them ariſes from the danger of fire; which, however, is in ſome meaſure obviated by the method of building their cottages detached from each other. But this obſervation does not hold with reſpect to ſome of their largeſt burghs: which muſt conſequently be expoſed to the ravages of this dreadful calamity.

I am, &c.

LETTER 31.

Fall of the Reichenbach—Paſſage of the Sheidec—Valley and Glaciers of Grindelwald.

Grindelwald, Auguſt 13.

WE left Meyringen this morning, croſſed the Aar, and mounted the Sheidec through a beautiful foreſt of beech, poplars, mountain-aſh, and pines. About two miles from Meyringen we diſmounted at a ſmall village, and paſſed along ſome fields in order to view the fall of the Reichenbach, which is deſervedly celebrated for its variety and beauty.

The Reichenbach has its ſource at the foot of the Wetterhorn; and rolls in numerous cataracts down the ſteep ſides of Mount Sheidec, until it unites with the Aar near Meyringen.

The fall of the Reichenbach may be divided into three principal parts.

The firſt, which alone is uſually viſited by travellers, precipitates itſelf from an overhanging rock, is reduced into ſpray and foam, and in that ſtate falls in a perpendicular column, at leaſt from an elevation of two hundred feet, into a natural baſon, from which it overflows, and is ſoon loſt in the abyſs beneath. The rock itſelf is concave, arched, totally bare, excepting its ſummit, which is feathered with ſhrubs; and being of black marble, forms a ſtriking contraſt with the pure whiteneſs of the deſcending foam. Part of the ſpray rebounds on the rock, and glides gently into the baſon in many a ſilvery current.

The ſecond cataract begins from the overflowing of the baſon; and is moſt advantageouſly ſeen from a large tree which impends on the ſides of the precipice. In this part the torrent forms a ſecond perpendicular column of water, which is half obſcured, as it daſhes through a chaſm of projecting rocks.

The beſt point of view for ſeeing the third cataract is in a meadow at the bottom of the ſecond. From that ſituation the whole Reichenbach ſeems one immenſe water-fall; the bottom of the firſt, and the top of the ſecond cataract, being concealed by the intervening hills. From thence it rolls nearly in a horizontal direction; is divided into two ſtreams by a rocky iſland beautifully ſprinkled with trees, and impetuouſly deſcends in two unequal bodies. It then daſhes over broken crags of black marble, through groves of beech, mountain-aſh, and pines, and rich grounds interſperſed with hamlets.

On viewing the various parts of this ſtupendous fall, I was as much intereſted and affected, as Ariſtæus is repreſented by Virgil, when his mother Cyrene points out to him the ſources of the principal rivers burſting at once from the earth.

Jamque domum mirans genitricis et humida regna
Speluncifque lacus clauſos, lucoſque ſonantes,
Ibat, et ingenti motu ſtupefactus aquarum.
Omnia ſub magnâ labentia flumina terrâ
Spectabat diverſa locis, Phaſimque, Lycumque,
Et caput, unde altus primum ſe erumpit Enipeus,
Unde pater Tiberinus, et unde Aniena fluenta,

Saxoſumque ſonans Hypanis, Myſuſque Caicus,
Et gemina auratus taurino cornua vultu
Eridanus, quo non alius per pinguia culta
In mare purpureum violentior influit amnis *.

We next aſcended by the ſide of the Reichenbach, croſſed that torrent over a bridge; and, having traverſed ſeveral plains, or rather undulating vallies, beautifully ſprinkled with aſh, poplar, and other large trees, we continued our route at the foot of ſome enormous mountains, which are called by the general name of Wetterhorn †, or *Stormy*

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* With wond'ring eyes he views the ſecret ſtore
Of lakes, that pent in hollow caverns roar;
He hears the crackling ſound of coral woods,
And ſees the ſecret ſource of ſubterraneous floods;
And where, diſtinguiſh'd in their ſev'ral cells,
The fount of Phaſis, and of Lycus dwells;
Where ſwift Enipeus in his bed appears,
And Tiber his majeſtic forehead rears;
Where Anio flows, and Hypanis profound
Breaks thro' th' oppoſing rocks with raging ſound;
Where Po firſt iſſues from his dark abodes,
And, awful in his cradle, rules the floods.
Dryden's Virgil, Georg. book iv.

† The ſeveral peaks of this mountain go under different appellations; and are not aſcertained without much difficulty, the peaſants uſually miſtaking and confounding them. One is called the Wetter-horn, another the Nager-horn, a third the Engel-horn, and the higheſt point takes the denomination

Stormy Peak. This enormous group, which forms the Wetterhorn, is peculiarly ſtriking, as well from the naked majeſty and grandeur of its rugged peaks, as from its being more inſulated than the neighbouring mountains, and becauſe, in paſſing from Meyringen to Grindelwald, it preſents itſelf the firſt of this ſtupendous chain *.

After having aſcended about three hours from the time of our quitting Meyringen, we refreſhed ourſelves and our horſes in a delightful vale ſtrewed with hamlets;' a ſloping hill, adorned with variegated verdure and wood, on one ſide; on the other, the Roſenlavi and Schwartz-wald

mination of Jungfrau-horn, or Virgin's-horn, for the ſame reaſon as the mountain of that name in the valley of Lauterbruennen, becauſe its ſummit is inacceſſible. Hence ſeveral travellers have miſtaken this peak for the real Jungfrau-horn.

I have mentioned theſe circumſtances, in order to prevent the confuſion of names puzzling future travellers as they once puzzled me.

The word *horn* in German, which bears the ſame ſignification as in the Engliſh tongue, is applied to the higheſt peaks, as in French *aiguille*, or needle.

* To thoſe who go from Grindelwald to Meyringen, the Wetterhorn is the laſt of this chain. Hence the traveller will not, perhaps, be ſo much affected with its majeſty and grandeur, as if he firſt obſerved it in aſcending from Meyringen. I mention this circumſtance, becauſe all deſcriptions are *comparative*.

glaciers ſtretching between impending rocks; and before us the higheſt point of the Wetterhorn lifting its pyramidical top capped with eternal ſnow. As we were taking our repaſt, we were ſuddenly ſtartled by a noiſe, like the ſound of thunder; occaſioned by a large body of ſnow falling from the top of the mountain, which, in its precipitate deſcent, had the appearance of a torrent of water reduced almoſt into ſpray. Theſe *avalanches* (as they are called) are ſometimes attended with the moſt fatal conſequences: for, when they conſiſt of enormous maſſes, they deſtroy every thing in their courſe; and not unfrequently overwhelm even a whole village. The beſt preſervative againſt their effects being the foreſts, with which the alps abound, there is ſcarcely a village, if ſituated at the foot of a mountain, that is not ſheltered by trees; which the inhabitants preſerve with uncommon reverence, as their common protector. Thus, what conſtitutes one of the principal beauties in the country, affords alſo ſecurity to the people.

We continued our courſe at the foot of the Wetterhorn, which in this part is ſo extremely perpendicular and tapering as to appear like half of an immenſe pyramid. Here we conceived it impoſſible, that any ſcenes could be more rude and majeſtic than thoſe before us; but on reaching

ing the top of the Sheidec, we burſt upon a view which ſo far exceeded them in wildneſs and horror, that we unanimouſly exclaimed, "There is the *Schreckhorn*, or the *Peak of Terror*."

The deſcent from hence to Grindelwald is gentle but tedious: that village, conſiſting of numerous cottages, diſperſed over the plain and upon the riſing hills, exhibits an agreeable and picturesque ſcene, heightened at the ſame time by a view of the vallies of ice; which ſtretch along the ſteep ſides of the mountains in a regular curve, and are beautifully ſkirted with wood

The two vallies of ice, which extend into the plain of Grindelwald, are called the Superior and Inferior Glaciers. The former lies between the Wetterhorn and the Mettenberg; the latter between the Mettenberg and the Eger-horn. The Mettenberg is the baſe of the Schreckhorn; and the Eger-horn, or *Pointed peak*, borders on the valley of Grindelwald, and ſlopes gradually from barren rock and ſnow to fertility and cultivation *.

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* For a further account of this chain of alps, which are contiguous to the vallies of Grindelwald and Lauterbruennen, ſee Letter on the Chain of Alps obſerved from Berne.

August the 14th.

Dare I confeſs to you, that I am ſomewhat diſappointed, and that a nearer view of the glacier has not ſufficiently compenſated for the fatigue and trouble of the expedition? But I have promiſed to write from my own feelings, and not to ſend an account taken from exaggerated deſcriptions.—We ſallied forth this morning full of impatience; and arrived at the bottom of the Inferior glacier, forming a majeſtic arch of ice; from whence iſſued a loud torrent of ſnow-water juſt melted. This glacier is compoſed of numerous pyramids, which are more elevated towards the plain; being from about forty to fifty feet high, and gradually ſhortening, until they terminate in a broad ſurface broken into deep and wide chaſms. We mounted a very difficult path at the edge of the frozen region, occaſionally paſſing over the ſteep and craggy parts of rock almoſt perpendicular, along the very ſides of the precipice: the danger of which makes me ſhudder even now. This glacier is ſeveral miles in length, and is ſuppoſed, by many travellers, to join the glacier of the Aar, which I viſited in my expedition to the top of the Grimſel. But the reverend Mr. Wyttenbach of Berne, who has frequently examined its direction from the adjacent heights, aſſured me, that thoſe two glaciers are ſeparated from each other by a chain of abrupt and perpendicular mountains.

After having employed above two hours in aſcending, we were prevented from continuing our progreſs by rugged rocks, and a riſing hill of ice; our guide aſſuring us at the ſame time, that it was impoſſible to proceed any farther. Of this we were by no means convinced; but not having any conductor who could lead the way, and not daring to explore theſe unknown regions by ourſelves, we deſcended with heavy hearts; much diſappointed, that what we had ſeen, though certainly a very curious and ſublime ſight, did not equal our expectations: and it added to our chagrin, on being afterwards informed, that though we could ſcarcely have proceeded further in the direction which we took, yet, that if we had followed another path, we might have penetrated to the Superior glacier, and have reached the baſe of the Schreckhorn. In that part between the mountains, now occupied by the Inferior glacier, there was formerly a road which communicated with the Vallais, but is at preſent impaſſable; and a ſpot was pointed out to us, now covered with ice, where once ſtood a ſmall chapel.

What peculiarly diſtinguiſhes the glacier of Grindelwald from that of the Furca, is, that the latter lies amid barren and craggy rocks, in a moſt deſolate, dreary, and uninhabited country; whereas this valley of ice joins to a very fertile plain, and borders upon cultivation: in other reſpects the Furca was a much more ſtriking object. Not far from this glacier of Grindelwald, pines, willows, aſh, and oaks, grow and come to perfection: and near the borders of the ice I gathered ſtrawberries and wild cherries, and obſerved hazel-nuts, barberries, and mulberry-trees. The valley of Grindelwald is extremely fertile; it produces barley, rye, hay, hemp, and fruit-trees in great abundance, and feeds above two thouſand large cattle.

I am, &c.

LETTER 32.

Valley and Glaciers of Lauterbruennen—Fall of the Staubbach.

THE road from Grindelwald to this place is good, and we met a cart, which to us is become a remarkable object, not having ſeen any thing that moves upon wheels ſince we quitted Lucerne. The country is pleaſingly diverſified with hanging woods, immenſe rocks, deep precipices, and violent torrents. But I ſuppoſe you are by this time as much accuſtomed to rocks, precipices, and torrents, as the readers of Fingal to blue miſts and hollow winds *.

The valley of Lauterbruennen is emboſomed in the midſt of the alps. The weſtern boundary of the valley, from which the Staubbach falls, would, in any other country, be called an enormous mountain: it here appears only a trifling hill in compariſon with the oppoſite chain, of which the higheſt point is the beautiful Jungfrau-horn, that ſtretches in a ſemicircular direction, and overlooking the adjacent peaks, riſes to a ſtupendous height.

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* A nearer and more intereſting, but more difficult paſſage, conducts over the Sheidec from Grindelwald to Lauterbruennen. In my ſecond expedition into theſe parts, I propoſed traverſing this paſſage, and had actually ſet off for that purpoſe; but a violent ſhower obliging me to change my reſolution, I continued my journey along the ſame road as on the former occaſion.

It may be proper to apprize the traveller, that there are two Sheidecs, the one ſeparating the vallies of Grindelwald and Meyringen, the other thoſe of Grindelwald and Lauterbruennen.

We are now lodged at the houſe of the clergyman of Lauterbruennen; a little village, or rather collection of cottages, ſprinkled, like thoſe of Grindelwald, about the valley and acceſſible parts of the hills. Near the houſe, is the celebrated fall of the Staubbach, which I am juſt returned from viewing. This torrent rolls perpendicularly from ſo conſiderable a height, as to reſolve itſelf into fine ſpray; the greateſt part of it falls clear of the overhanging mountain, during its whole deſcent; but the remainder daſhes about half way againſt a projection from the rock, and flies off with great violence. The clergyman meaſured, a ſhort time ago, its perpendicular height, and found it nine hundred and thirty feet. The ſun ſhining in an oppoſite direction, a miniature rainbow was reflected towards the bottom of the fall: while I ſtood at ſome diſtance, the rainbow aſſumed a ſemicircular figure; as I approached, the extreme points gradually coincided, and formed a complete circle of the moſt lively and brilliant colours. In order to have a ſtill finer view, I ventured nearer and nearer; the circle at the ſame time becoming ſmaller and ſmaller; and as I ſtood quite under the fall, it ſuddenly diſappeared. When I looked up to the torrent, in this ſituation, it reſembled a cloud of duſt: and from this circumſtance indeed it takes its name; Staubbach ſignifying, in the German language, a ſpring of *duſt*. I paid for my curioſity, by being extremely wet; but then I had the ſatisfaction, at the ſame time, of ſeeing a rainbow in miniature: no uncommon phænomenon, as it may be obſerved in any caſcade, upon which the ſun ſhines directly in a certain poſition. In the preſent inſtance, however, it was ſome conſolation to me, that the object happened to be peculiarly ſtriking.

The next morning we rode to the extremity of the vale, in which there are ſome noble points of view, and aſcended to the glaciers, which ſtretch from the feet of the Breit-horn and Groſſ-horn. In this delightful valley many ſtreams* of the cleareſt water guſh from the earth like ſmall rivers, and numberleſs torrents precipitate themſelves from the mountains. I noticed two in particular which fall from a greater height than even the Staubbach, but as their deſcent is not ſo direct, they are leſs extraordinary.

After mounting above three hours, we reached a ſmall hut, which in ſummer is inhabited by herdſmen, who make excellent cheeſes, and tend numerous herds of cows, goats, and ſwine. Here we feaſted upon cold chamois, which our hoſt had provided for us, and concluded our repaſt with a deſert of delicious cream. From thence we aſcended ſtill further, with conſiderable difficulty arrived at the borders of the glaciers, and were entirely ſurrounded by rugged and almoſt impaſſable rocks. We wiſhed to proceed; but our hoſt aſſuring us, that we had but juſt time to return before night, we ſat down cloſe to the ice, and contemplated, with rapture and aſtoniſhment, part of the great central chain of the alps; rocks towering above rocks, and mountains riſing above mountains, not more diſtinguiſhed for their ſtupendous heights, than for the immenſe variety and rudeneſs of their forms. One of the peaks, which is called the Groſs-horn, is of a pyramidal ſhape, and capped with frozen ſnow; another, the Breit-horn, is conical, and ſeems crowned with an enormous maſs of tranſparent ice, from which the reflection of the ſun-beams were inexpreſſibly beautiful. But the moſt elevated and moſt majeſtic of the whole group, is the Jungfrau-horn, or Virgin's-horn, which takes its name of *virgin*, becauſe its ſummit is inacceſſible.

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* From which circumſtance it receives its name, *Lauterbruennen*, in German, ſignifying *many ſprings.*

The hollows between the mountains are filled with large vallies of ice, broken into a great variety of ſhapes; and ſeveral torrents burſting from the ſnow, and uniting in their courſe, form the Weiſs-Lutchine, a river which rolls rapidly through the valley of Lauterbruennen, joins the Schwartz-Lutchine, which flows from Grindelwald, and falls into the Aar.

Many of the mountains are covered to a great height with verdure, on which the eye repoſes with delight amid the horrors of ſuch wintry ſcenes. We obſerved alſo, at conſiderable elevations, ſeveral ſmall villages, the acceſs to which muſt be almoſt as difficult as to the glaciers to which we aſcended.

Notwithſtanding, however, the magnificence and variety of this curious ſcenery, and the uncommon phænomenon of ice and ſnow in the midſt of ſummer, bordering on foreſts and cultivation, yet I muſt own, that the ideas which we had previouſly conceived, from exaggerated accounts, concerning the boundleſs extent and magnificent appearance of the glaciers, were not ſufficiently anſwered. And it is remarkable, that every object in Switzerland has more than gratified our expectations, except the glaciers; which muſt, nevertheleſs, be conſidered as forming one of the moſt intereſting phænomena in the whole country. This diſappointment ſeems to have been occaſioned by the turgid accounts which we had heard and read of the glaciers:

of Grindelwald and Lauterbruennen: and we were led to ſuppoſe, that the glacier of the Furca was much inferior in magnitude to thoſe of Grindelwald and Lauterbruennen; whereas, in fact, it was in all reſpects equal, if not ſuperior, to them.

POSTSCRIPT.

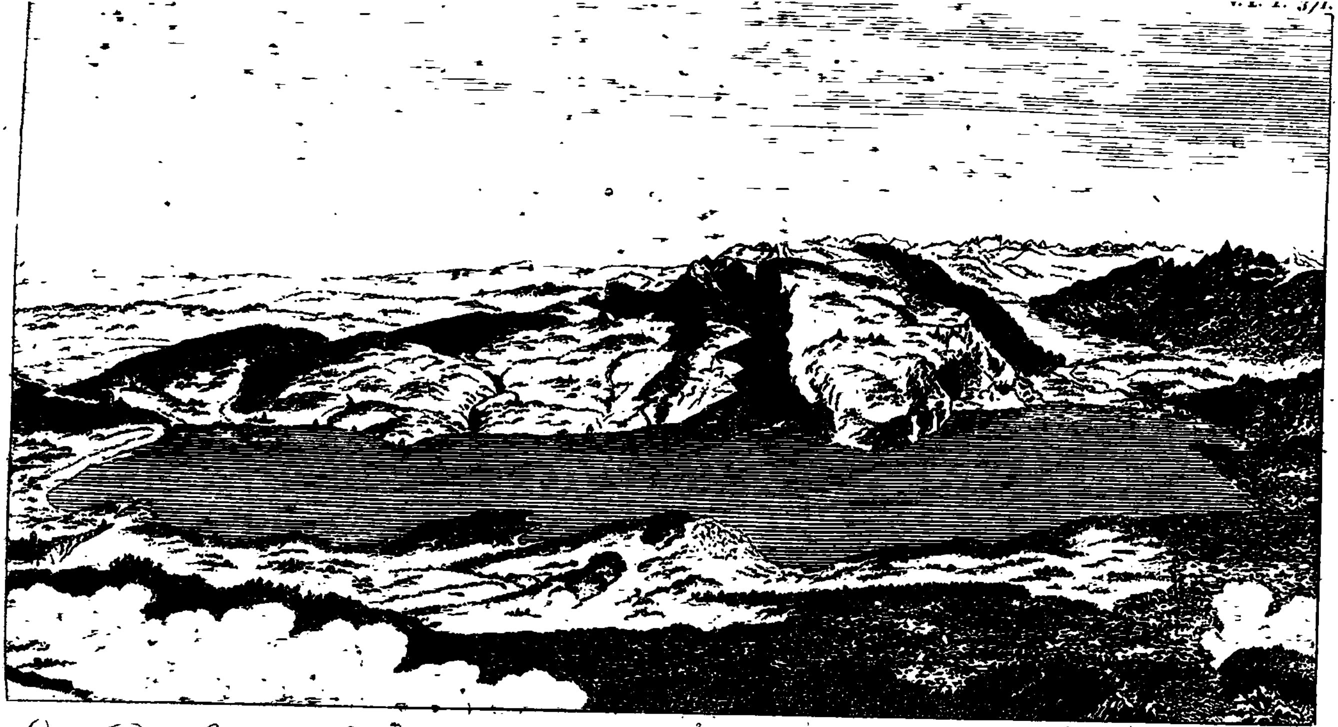
September 1, 1785.

IN 1785, I was conſiderably more delighted and aſtoniſhed with the vallies of Grindelwald and Lauterbruennen than in 1776; becauſe my imagination was not, in this as in the former inſtance, exalted by exaggerated deſcriptions, and led to expect more than could be reached, even by nature herſelf, however prodigal in theſe her ſublimeſt works. But the vallies of ice appeared to me, in the latter as well as in the former period, inconſiderable objects, when viewed at ſome diſtance, and compared with the ſurrounding mountains, whoſe ſummits and ſides are clothed with vaſt regions of ice and ſnow. On a nearer approach they become more intereſting, particularly when they are broken into abrupt ridges, and immenſe chaſms; and when their aggregate maſs, and numerous branches, are obſerved from the ſurrounding heights. Still, however, the traveller may be diſappointed, whoſe imagination has been previouſly filled with turgid deſcriptions; or who applies to the vallies of ice that ſublimity and magnificence, which are only due to the alps above and around them.

LETTER 33.

Lakes of Thun and Brientz—Paſſage of Mount Gemmi—Baths of Leuk.

THE neareſt route from Lauterbruennen to the Baths of Leuk, leads acroſs the mountains to Kanderſteig. It is called *le chemin vert*, or the *green way*, becauſe the rocks are, for the moſt part, covered with herbage. It is only practicable to foot-paſſengers; and I was informed by a Swiſs gentleman who paſſed it, though ſteep and difficult, that it is not dangerous. Its diſtance may be about three leagues, and, to a perſon not wholly unaccuſtomed to alpine paſſages, would require about five or ſix hours. A *chaſſeur* would perform it in leſs than half the time. In my ſecond expedition, in 1785, I had propoſed croſſing this way; but was obliged



View of the Lakes of **THUN** and **BRIENTZ** from the top of the Nieſs.

to decline it, as I could not procure a guide who was acquainted with the road.

I purſued, therefore, the uſual route, which runs from the entrance of the valley of Lauterbruennen, through a fertile plain, between the lakes of Thun and Brientz. About two leagues from Lauterbrüennen, I came to the Aar, near the ſpot where it iſſues from the lake of Brientz, and followed its courſe until it entered the lake of Thun, ſo called from a town of that name, ſituated upon its north-weſtern extremity. This lake is about four leagues long and one broad; and, if we may judge from the ſteepneſs of the mountains with which it is bounded, muſt be very deep: the borders are richly variegated; and preſent ſeveral fine points of view, greatly heightened by many rugged rocks riſing boldly from the edge of the water. We coaſted this lake, through a delightful country, to the ſmall village of Leiſingen; then aſcended to Æſchi, from whence we looked down upon the lakes of Thun and Brientz. In all the maps of Switzerland, which have fallen under my obſervation, theſe two lakes are repreſented as if they extended almoſt in a ſtrait line; whereas they are ſituated nearly at right angles to each other. You may judge of their true poſition, by the annexed engraving, communicated to me by the Rev. Mr. Wyttenbach of Berne.

Having deſcended from Æſchi, we ſoon entered the rich valley of Frutigen, parallel to that of Lauterbruennen, and enjoyed, for a conſiderable way, a proſpect of thoſe glaciers we had viſited the day before. This valley ends at the ſmall town of Frutigen: from thence commences that of Kander, watered by a river of the ſame name, and bounded by mount Kander. In all theſe vallies, the rudeneſs and height of the mountains, which almoſt encloſe them, contraſted with the beauty and fruitfulneſs of the plains, always fertilized by ſome lively torrent, form a thouſand pictureſque ſcenes, ever changing, and impoſſible to be deſcribed: and they are ſtill further embelliſhed by the number of ruined caſtles perched upon points ſeemingly inacceſſible.

The road continued good as far as the village of Kanderſteg; from whence delicate travellers, who do not chuſe to mount a rugged aſcent, either on foot or on horſeback, are carried in an arm-chair ſupported by means of poles upon men's ſhoulders. We proceeded, however, on horſeback, having before rode up ſteeper and more difficult paths. After having aſcended about an hour and a half, we arrived at the ſummit of the Kander, where a wooden croſs marks the entrance into the Vallais; then traverſed a waving plain of paſture, in which we obſerved a few huts and ſeveral herds of cattle; and at length reached a ſingle houſe on the Gemmi, where we procured ſome refreſhment: here we ſaw nothing but immenſe rocks piled upon one another, with no appearance of vegetation; and the weather was exceedingly cold. We then paſſed over a large drift of ſnow, and came to a lake called the Dauben See, about a league in circumference, ſupplied by a conſiderable torrent from a neighbouring glacier. This lake has no viſible outlet; but doubtleſs finds a ſubterraneous paſſage into the *Vallais.*

The chain of mountains, which here ſeparates the canton of Berne from the Vallais, is called the Gemmi: from the point of which, overlooking and almoſt over-hanging the Vallais, we had at once a moſt extenſive proſpect over that fertile country, and the rugged alps of Savoy. The mountain which we deſcended, is in many places almoſt perpendicular; and yet a horſe-road has been hewed in the hard rock down this very formidable deſcent. It was begun in 1736, and finiſhed in 1741, at the joint expence of the Vallais, and the canton of Berne: an aſtoniſhing work! which proves that nothing is impracticable to human induſtry. More than a league has been blown up with gunpowder, and a way formed which ſeems dangerous to thoſe, who are unuſed to mountainous countries, or whoſe heads are apt to turn giddy. It is about nine feet broad, and quite hangs over the precipice: in ſome parts, for a conſiderable ſpace, it is a hollow way, open only at one ſide, the rock above projecting over it, of the ſame breadth, and in the ſame direction. The appearance is peculiarly ſingular: for, as the road winds continually, the ſcene alſo continually changes; ſo that one moment we commanded an extenſive view, and the next were totally encloſed with barren rock.

The deſcent from the top to the plain, is about two leagues: when you are arrived at the bottom, and look up, you cannot obſerve the ſmalleſt traces of a road; ſo that a ſtranger would hardly believe it poſſible, that a paſſage has been formed down the rock, until convinced by his own experience.

About thirty years ago, the troops of Berne deſcended this road for the purpoſe of aſſiſting the canton of Uri againſt the inhabitants of the valley of Levino, who had revolted; and, what is almoſt incredible, they deſcended with heavy artillery.

This place is famous for its hot medicinal ſprings; and is much frequented by invalids of various kinds, during this ſeaſon of the year: the patients either bathe or drink the waters. As far as I can judge from the accounts which I have received concerning their warmth, their analyſis, the method of uſing them, and their efficacy in curing the gout, rheumatiſm, obſtructions, and cutaneous diſorders; they ſeem nearly to reſemble thoſe of Bath. There are ſeveral ſprings, of different warmth and of different qualities: according to the moſt accurate experiments made by the Rev. Mr. Wyttenbach, the mercury in Fahrenheit's thermometer, when plunged into the principal ſource, ſtood at 115; and at 120 in the ſpring which flows near the bridge over the Dala.

The accommodations for the company are very inconvenient: each perſon having for his own uſe a ſmall apartment not more than a few feet ſquare; in which there is juſt room for a bed, a table, and two chairs. The public dining-room is upon rather a larger ſcale, as is alſo an apartment where the company occaſionally aſſemble. Formerly the accommodations were tolerably good; but unfortunately, in 1719, an *avalanche* fell with ſuch impetuoſity from a neighbouring glacier, upon the village, as to overwhelm the greateſt part of the houſes and the baths, and to deſtroy a conſiderable number of the inhabitants.

The company, conſiſting of perſons from different quarters of Switzerland, are exceedingly affable and obliging: inſomuch that ſeveral of them have invited us to their reſpective houſes; and this invitation was made with that openneſs and unaffected frankneſs ſo peculiarly characteriſtic of the Swiſs. We dined this morning at eleven; the bell for ſupper is now ringing, and it is ſcarce ſeven. Theſe are primitive hours: but we have travelling appetites; and, provided we meet with refreſhment, the hour and place are of little conſequence.

You are now probably drinking tea in your withdrawing room, from whence you are enjoying that beautiful proſpect I have ſo often admired. The ſituation of this ſpot is more romantic than that of Bath, and the waters perhaps not leſs efficacious: yet this village contains only a few miſerable houſes, while Bath is one of the fineſt towns in Europe. I had a converſation today upon this topic, with a very ingenious and well-informed gentleman of the Vallais. I obſerved to him, that, conſidering the great credit and efficacy of theſe waters, I could not forbear wondering, that the chiefs of the republic had not conſidered the improvement of the accommodations,

tions, an object worthy of their attention; for, if they were rendered more convenient for the reception of invalids, it would undoubtedly be the means of drawing a great number of ſtrangers; and conſequently muſt be highly beneficial to the country. He aſſured me, it had more than once been in contemplation: that ſome perſons of great credit and authority oppoſed all improvements, upon a principle ſimilar to the policy of Lycurgus; conceiving that a concourſe of ſtrangers would only ſerve to introduce luxury among the inhabitants, and inſenſibly deſtroy that ſimplicity of manners, for which the *Vallaiſans* are ſo remarkably diſtinguiſhed.

How far the ignorance of a people contributes to their true felicity? or how far a ſimplicity of manners may be corrupted by *national* improvement? are queſtions which have been much agitated; and will never be decided, ſo long as it ſhall be held juſt reaſoning to argue from the abuſe againſt the uſe. But it will readily be allowed, that ſuperſtition is ever the companion of ignorance; and that a people who are both ignorant and ſuperſtitious, muſt neceſſarily be benefited by an intercourſe with nations more improved and enlightened than themſelves.

We walked to a ſpot not far from hence, where a communication has been formed with the village Albenen. Where the mountain inclines towards a ſlope, a foot-path has been cut; but in thoſe parts where the rock is directly perpendicular, ladders are placed; and the peaſants aſcend and deſcend with heavy burdens upon their ſhoulders. We counted ſeven of theſe ladders. I mention this circumſtance, not as being an object ſo remarkable, perhaps, as is repreſented by ſome travellers; but as it will convey to you an idea of the extreme ruggedneſs and ſingularity of the country.

I am, &c.

LETTER 34.

Republic of the Vallais—Cardinal Schinner—Town of Sion—Martigny—St. Maurice.

Sion, Auguſt 19.

SION being nearly the point where the German language terminates, and where the French begins; the natives in this part of the Vallais conſequently ſpeak both tongues.

We ſet out this morning at five, and came down a very ſteep valley to Leuk, a ſmall town built upon an eminence near the Rhone: that river is here very rapid; and, if we may judge by the breadth of the channel, often overflows its banks. We croſſed it at this place, and continued for ſome way through a foreſt of firs, till we again paſſed the river to Siders: from thence we coaſted its banks to Sion, the capital of the Vallais.

Another road leading from the Baths of Leuk to Siders, which I traverſed in 1785, though more ſteep and incommodious, is far more intereſting to the traveller, who delights in picturesque views. It is called the *galleries*; is cut along the ſides of an abrupt and rugged rock, in a zig-zag direction, and bounded by a wooden railing, which overhangs a dreadful abyſs, ſo deep and obſcure, that the river Dala, which rolls impetuouſly through it, is neither ſeen nor heard. The oppoſite chain of mountains is clothed with dark foreſts, enlivened with paſtures, and interſperſed with occaſional villages, which are ſituated one above the other, to a conſiderable height, and ſeem ſcarcely acceſſible but to foot paſſengers.

This tract of country, called the Vallais, ſtretches from eaſt to weſt about a hundred miles; and contains about 100,000 inhabitants, who all profeſs the Roman Catholic religion. It is divided into Upper and Lower Vallais: the former reaches from the Furca to the Morge, below Sion; and the latter from that river to St. Gingou, ſituated upon the lake of Geneva.

The Upper Vallais is ſovereign of the Lower Vallais; and compriſes ſeven independent *dixains* or commonwealths; namely, Sion, Goms, Brieg, Viſp, Leuk, Raren, and Siders: of theſe Sion is ariſtocratical, and the others democratical. They are called *Dixains*, becauſe the Upper Vallais being divided into ſeven, and the Lower into three diſtricts, each diviſion is a *dixain*, or *tenth* of the whole.

The biſhop of Sion was formerly abſolute ſovereign over the greateſt part of the Vallais; but his authority is at preſent limited to the following particulars. He has the ſole power of pardoning criminals; and ſigns all the warrants for execution: the money is coined in his name, and with the arms of the republic. In his acts he ſigns himſelf biſhop of Sion, prince of the German empire, and count and præfect of the Vallais: in days of high ceremony he dines in public, and is waited upon by the firſt noble of the Vallais, who is hereditary treaſurer. He nominates alſo the bailifs or governors of the two bailliages of Martigny and Arden; and he poſſeſſes conſiderable influence from his patronage of church preferment. Upon a vacancy in the ſee, the canons of the chapter of Sion preſent from their own body four candidates, from whom one is appointed biſhop by the *Landſrath*, or general diet.

The ſeven dixains form, conjointly with the biſhop, the republic of the Vallais; and all affairs are tranſacted in the diet, called *Landſrath*, which meets twice every year at Sion. This aſſembly conſiſts of nine voices; the biſhop; the *lands-hauptmann*, who is choſen or confirmed by the diet every two years; and the ſeven communities. The biſhop preſides, and the *lands-hauptmann* collects the votes; and all reſolutions are decided by the majority. Each dixain, although it has but one vote, ſends as many deputies as it pleaſes: they generally conſiſt of four; —a judge, a banneret, a captain, and a lieutenant. The judge and the lieutenant are appointed every two years; the two others hold their offices for life.

In all civil cauſes of a certain importance, an appeal lies to the diet in the laſt reſort, from the inferior courts of juſtice in the ſeveral dixains. Thus, by the inſtitution of this ſupreme council, the ſeveral communities in this country are firmly united, and form in conjunction one body politic, or republic, for the general affairs of the nation. In other caſes, each of the commonwealths is governed by its own particular laws and cuſtoms.

Both the Upper and Lower Vallais were formerly dependent upon the biſhop of Sion; but the inhabitants of the two diſtricts united in order to limit his power; and, having ſucceeded in the attempt, they quarrelled among themſelves for the ſuperiority. A bloody war enſued; which terminated, in 1475, by the total defeat of the Lower Vallaiſans. Since that period, they have continued ſubject to the Upper Vallais; enjoying however ſome very conſiderable privileges.

The republic of the Vallais is an ally of the thirteen cantons; and has formed a particular league with the ſeven Catholic cantons, for the defence of their common religion.

The biſhops of Sion had formerly a conſiderable influence over the political affairs of Switzerland; and Matthew Schinner, the cardinal biſhop, is famous in hiſtory for his great abilities, his daring ſpirit of intrigue, and his turbulent and reſtleſs ambition. He was born at Milbach, in the dixain of Goms; and in 1500 was appointed biſhop of Sion. It was entirely owing to his repreſentations and influence, that the Swiſs troops gave a ſingular inſtance of infidelity to their public engagements, by breaking a treaty which they had juſt contracted with Francis the Firſt. When that monarch invaded the Milaneſe, he endeavoured to gain the Swiſs; who having taken the duke of Milan under their protection, were the only obſtacles to the progreſs of his arms. After much heſitation, they were prevailed upon, by the offer of conſiderable ſubſidies, to enter into a treaty: but the alliance was no ſooner concluded, than the cardinal of Sion perſuaded them to break it, and continue the war. The Swiſs hiſtorians however record, with triumph, the patriotic conduct of two officers upon this occaſion; who, remonſtrating againſt this breach of faith, drew off eight thouſand troops; and returning to Switzerland, in ſome meaſure retrieved the honour of the nation.

The remainder of the army, inſtigated by the plauſible and artful eloquence of the cardinal, engaged Francis the Firſt near Marignano, in one of the moſt furious and obſtinate battles that was fought during the bloody wars of Italy. Night alone put a ſtop to the engagement, without ſeparating the combatants; both armies were blended upon the field of battle: and Francis ſlept upon the carriage of a cannon, at no great diſtance from a battalion of the enemy. At day-break the Swiſs renewed the charge with their uſual courage, and were received with equal bravery. At length the intrepidity of the king, and the deſperate valour of the French, roſe ſuperior to the furious and repeated attacks of the Swiſs; the latter retreated to Milan, leaving Francis in poſſeſſion of the field of battle: an advantage, however, which he gained by the loſs of his braveſt troops.

The ſame cardinal, actuated by the moſt inveterate enmity to the French, occaſioned alſo, by his ſole intrigues, the loſs of the Milaneſe to Francis. Lautrec, in the year 1521, commanded a body of 12,000 Swiſs, who formed the principal ſtrength of his army. On the other ſide, the cardinal had obtained, by his influence over his countrymen, a ſecret levy of the like number, to join the enemies of France: and thus, for the firſt time, the Swiſs were ſeen combating under oppoſite banners, and ready to commit hoſtilities againſt each other. Upon this occaſion the cantons immediately diſpatched meſſengers, with peremptory orders for the Swiſs in both armies, to return to their country. The cardinal bribed the meſſengers to conceal theſe orders from the Swiſs in the army of the confederates, and to deliver them only to thoſe who were in the French ſervice. The latter obeyed accordingly; and this deſertion weakening the army of Lautrec, Milan, and the principal towns, ſurrendered to the confederates. Soon after this inſtance of his intrigues and influence, the cardinal ended his turbulent life in the conclave, which aſſembled on the death of Leo the Tenth, for the election of a new pope.

The inhabitants of this part of the Vallais are very much ſubject to *goiters*, or large excreſcences of fleſh that grow from the throat, and often increaſe to a moſt enormous ſize: but what is more extraordinary, idiocy alſo remarkably abounds among them. I ſaw many inſtances of both kinds as I paſſed through Sion: ſome idiots were baſking in the ſun with their tongues out, and their heads hanging down; exhibiting the moſt affecting ſpectacle of intellectual imbecillity that can poſſibly be conceived. The cauſes which produce a frequency of theſe phænomena in this country, is a curious queſtion, which very much excites my inquiry: but I ſhall defer giving my opinion, until I ſhall have obtained farther information.

The weather in this encloſed vale is ſo exceedingly hot, that I am at this inſtant, although the evening is far advanced, quite oppreſſed with the extreme ſultrineſs. This languid heat is probably one of the cauſes, which occaſion the inconceivable lazineſs and indolence of the inhabitants: much, however, muſt at the ſame time be attributed to the richneſs of the ſoil; which prevents labour by almoſt ſpontaneouſly producing the fruits of the earth. In fact, the people aſſiſt nature very little: we paſſed ſeveral vineyards, in which the vines were ſuffered to trail upon the ground; whereas, if the branches were properly raiſed and ſupported, the owner would be well rewarded by the ſuperior quantity and quality of their produce.

The uncleanlineſs of the common people is diſguſting beyond expreſſion. I have juſt been holding a converſation upon this ſubject with my landlord; who, though himſelf a notorious example, yet ſeverely cenſured the dirtineſs of his countrymen; and ſeemed to aſſign it as one cauſe of *goiters*. This aſſertion induced me to conſider the perſon of my hoſt with ſomewhat more attention, in order to diſcover how it ſtood with himſelf in that reſpect; and I was rather diſappointed to find, that he proved an exception to his own remark. Let me not, however, be underſtood as inſinuating that the inhabitants in general are either goitrous, idiots, indolent, or dirty; like that traveller who aſſerted, that all the women of a certain town were crooked, red-haired, and pitted with the ſmall-pox, becauſe his landlady happened to be ſo. Indeed, I look upon national reflections in general, to proceed from the narroweſt and moſt illiberal turn of mind; and have always been cautious not to judge of the phyſical, or moral character of any people from a partial and ſuperficial view. But as to the ſingular prevalency in the preſent inſtance, of goiters and idiocy, it is a fact which I can venture to affirm, both from my own experience, and from various converſations I have held with ſeveral men of learning and obſervation of this country; and the general dirtineſs and indolence of the common people are too notorious to eſcape the obſervation of the moſt careleſs traveller.

Sion is ſituated near the Rhone, at the foot of three inſulated rocks, that riſe immediately from the plain. The higheſt, called Tourbillon, ſupports the ruins of the old epiſcopal palace, ſtill containing two or three untenanted apartments, in one of which are the portraits of the ſeveral biſhops. On the ſecond rock, denominated

Valeria,

Valeria, are obſerved the remains of the old cathedral, and a few houſes belonging to the canons. On Mayoria, the third rock, ſtands the epiſcopal palace, an antient edifice of ſtone, built in 1547. On ſeeing the apartments, I was greatly ſtruck with their plainneſs, and could not avoid reflecting with pleaſure on the ſimplicity of manners, which muſt neceſſarily prevail in this country; when the rooms, inhabited by the ſovereign, inſtead of beſpeaking the magnificence of a court, are ſcarcely ſuperior to the dwelling of a peaſant. Two apartments principally engaged my attention. The firſt is that in which the Diet aſſembles: at the upper end are two armed chairs for the biſhop and the *lands-hauptmann*, and on each ſide a row of ſmaller ſeats for the deputies of the ſeven *dixains*. The other apartment is the hall, in which the biſhop holds his court, like the feudal lords of antient times: at the further extremity is a raiſed ſeat, called a throne, ſurrounded by a wooden baluſtrade; and, as an incitement to wiſdom and impartiality, the figures of Juſtice, and Solomon's judgment, are coarſely painted upon the walls.

Sion is an antient town, and was formerly the capital of the *Seduni*, who inhabited this part of the country in the time of Julius Cæſar. A few remaining inſcriptions ſtill prove its antiquity; and, among others, ſo obliterated that I was not able to decypher them, I obſerved one which was more legible: it is in honour of the emperor Auguſtus, during his eleventh conſulſhip. In this inſcription the town is called *Civitas Sedunorum.*

At Sion we parted with our horſes and guides, who had accompanied us from Altdorf; and procured a piece of luxury, to which we had been for ſome time unaccuſtomed; I mean a coach. But, notwithſtanding the concentrated heat of the climate, and the great ſultrineſs of the air, I prefer riding or walking; as by that means I enjoy a more unobſtructed view of the country: and indeed the ſcenes are ſo beautiful, and ſo perpetually changing, that the attention is every moment engaged by a variety of new objects that ſtrongly demand admiration.

Upon entering the Lower Vallais, I perceived as much uncleanlineſs, but a greater appearance of induſtry; and I am informed, that the natives are not altogether ſo indolent as the inhabitants of Sion and its environs.

This imputation of indolence will not hold good with reſpect to all the inhabitants of the Upper Vallais: for in the eaſtern part of that diſtrict, which we entered after having croſſed the

Furca, the ſoil, though far inferior in richneſs and fertility, was much better cultivated; and the people ſeemed induſtrious. Some phyſical reaſons may be aſſigned for this difference: for, *there* the weather is not ſo ſultry, the water is not unwholeſome, and the air is remarkably ſalutary. Accordingly, upon our firſt entering the Vallais, we did not obſerve any of thoſe goitrous perſons or idiots, who ſtruck us ſo much in the midland parts.

We ſtopped at the village of Martigny, which, according to antiquarians, was the antient *Octodurum*. It is ſaid, that near this place may be traced the ſite of Sergius Galba's camp, one of Julius Cæſar's lieutenants, who was ſent by that general to ſubdue the *Veragri*, the *Nantuates*, and the *Seduni*; the antient inhabitants of theſe diſtricts. It ſeems evident indeed from Cæſar's deſcription, in the third book of his Commentaries, that *Octodurum* could not be far from the preſent ſituation of Martigny; which ſtands in a ſmall plain, encircled by high mountains, and divided by the Dranſe, that falls into the Rhone. I cannot however aſcertain from my own obſervation, whether any traces of a Roman encampment ſtill remain; nor could I gain the leaſt information from the inhabitants; ſo that the conjecture concerning the ſituation of *Octodurum* reſts only upon the faith of antiquarians, and on the general poſition of the country.

Martigny is a place much frequented by travellers: it leads to the valley of Chamouny, to St. Maurice and the lake of Geneva, and is the paſſage of the merchandize, which is conveyed over the Great St. Bernard into Italy. Near Martigny we paſſed under the majeſtic ruins of La Bathia, an old epiſcopal caſtle, ſtanding upon the ſummit of a craggy rock, and impending over the impetuous Dranſe. The road from hence to St. Maurice runs under a chain of rocks, the Rhone flowing at a ſmall diſtance through the middle of a fertile vale. Having croſſed the Trient, a turbid torrent which iſſues from a narrow and obſcure glen, remarkable for its rugged and romantic ſcenery, we arrived at the Piſſe-Vache, a cataract much noticed by travellers. The characteriſtic beauty of this fall is, that it ſeems to burſt from a cleft in the middle of the rock, through hanging ſhrubs that ſtart abruptly from the crevices, and forms a perpendicular column of water about two hundred feet in height. The body of water being very ample, and the elevation not ſo conſiderable as to reduce it entirely into ſpray, render the effect very ſtriking. I enjoyed alſo the additional pleaſure of ſeeing the ſun riſe oppoſite to this water-fall. The regular expanſion of the rays enlightening the different parts of the column of water; and the gradual deſcent of the rainbow formed by the ſpray, were inexpreſſibly beautiful. Theſe torrents are my delight: but perhaps they recur too often in my letters to continue to be yours. Formerly travellers paſſed cloſe to the Piſſe-Vache; but a few years ago part of the rock falling down totally obſtructed the road, which now runs through the middle of the valley. I traverſed on foot, not without ſome difficulty, amid the fallen fragments, where, on a former occaſion, I had paſſed in a carriage.

At the extremity of the Lower Vallais, the two chains of mountains that bound this country, approach towards the Rhone, which nearly fills the interval between them. In this ſpot is ſituated the town of St. Maurice, built almoſt totally upon the rock, at the foot of ſome ſteep mountains, and at a ſmall diſtance from the river. Its antient appellation was *Agaunum*: it takes that of St. Maurice from an abbey, erected in the beginning of the ſixth century, by Sigiſmond king of Burgundy, in honour of a ſaint, who is ſuppoſed to have ſuffered martyrdom in this place. This ſaint was the leader of the famous Theban legion, which is recorded to have been maſſacred by order of the emperor Maximin, for not renouncing Chriſtianity. This hiſtory has given riſe to much controverſy: while ſome authors have treated it as a mere forgery; others have contended for its authenticity, with as much warmth and zeal, as if the truth of Chriſtianity depended upon the deciſion. Without entering into the merits of the queſtion, I cannot but remark, that the cauſe of Chriſtianity has ſuffered more from weak and imprudent defenders, than from the ſharpeſt attacks of its moſt inveterate adverſaries. Indeed, the queſtion concerning the number and ſufferings of the martyrs, has occaſioned much idle diſputation: for, reduce the popular accounts of both as low as probability can reaſonably carry them, there will ſtill remain ſufficient evidence of the wonderful conſtancy and calm reſolution of thoſe primitive victims: and whether a hundred thouſand, or only fifty, ſuffered for the cauſe of Chriſtianity, it will equally ſtand upon the ſame firm and immoveable foundation. Nor is the inquiry more material concerning the motives that actuated its powerful and cruel adverſaries. It matters not whether Decius ordered the Chriſtians to be maſſacred, becauſe they had been favoured by his predeceſſor Philip, or from his attachment to the Pagan rites; whether

Maximin perſecuted them from intereſted motives; Diocleſian as introducing innovations in his government; or whether Conſtantine protected them from conviction or policy. For the truth of Chriſtianity is in no reſpect affected either by the imprudence of its early profeſſors (if with any they were juſtly chargeable) or the political reaſons that influenced the conduct of thoſe emperors.

A few Roman inſcriptions, chiefly ſepulchral, and two defaced columns are the only uncontroverted remains of the antiquity of St. Maurice. It is principally diſtinguiſhed as being the chief entrance from the canton of Berne into the Vallais. This entrance is formed by a narrow paſs, ſo ſtrongly fortified by nature, that a handful of men might defend it againſt a conſiderable army.

The ſtone bridge over the Rhone is much admired for its bold projection: it is of a ſingle arch, and the ſpan is a hundred and thirty feet. Half of this bridge belongs to the Vallais, and the remainder to the canton of Berne.

I am, &c.

LETTER 35.

Of the Vallais.—Goiters and Idiots.

Trient, Auguſt 22.

I AM now writing from the village of Trient, on my way to Mont Blanc and the alps of Savoy. From the mountain of the Furca, its eaſtern boundary, two vaſt ranges of alps encloſe the Vallais: the ſouthern chain ſeparates it from the Milaneſe, Piedmont, and part of Savoy; the northern divides it from the canton of Berne. Theſe two chains, in their various windings, form ſeveral ſmall valleys, watered by numerous torrents that ruſh into the Rhone, as it traverſes the whole diſtrict from the Furca to St. Maurice. A country thus entirely encloſed within high alps, and conſiſting of plains, elevated valleys, and lofty mountains, muſt neceſſarily exhibit a great variety of ſituations, climates, and productions. Accordingly, the Vallais preſents to the curious traveller a quick ſucceſſion of proſpects, as beautiful as they are diverſified. Vineyards; rich paſture-grounds covered with cattle; corn, flax, fruit-trees, and foreſts, occaſionally bordered by naked rocks, the ſummits whereof are crowned with everlaſting ſnow. This ſtrong and ſtriking contraſt between the paſtoral and the ſublime, the cultivated and the wild, cannot but affect the mind of an obſerver with the moſt pleaſing emotions.

As to the productions of the Vallais; they muſt evidently vary, according to the great diverſity of climates, by which this country is ſo peculiarly diſtinguiſhed. It ſupplies more than ſufficient wine and corn for interior conſumption: and indeed a conſiderable quantity of both are yearly exported; the ſoil in the midland and lower diſtricts being exceedingly rich and fertile. In the plain, where the heat is collected and confined between the mountains, the harveſt is uſually finiſhed in July: whereas, in the more elevated parts, barley is the only grain that can be cultivated with any ſucceſs; and the crop is ſeldom cut before November. About Sion, the fig, the melon, and all the other fruits of Italy, come to perfection: in conſequence of this ſingular variety of climates, I taſted in the ſame day, ſtrawberries, cherries, plums, pears, and grapes; each of them the *natural* growth of the country.

With reſpect to manufactures; there are none of any conſequence: and indeed the general ignorance of the people is no leſs remarkable than their indolence; ſo that they may be conſidered, in regard to knowledge and improvements, as ſome centuries behind the Swiſs, who are certainly a very enlightened nation. The peaſants ſeldom endeavour to meliorate thoſe lands where the ſoil is originally bad; nor to draw the moſt advantage from thoſe, which are uncommonly fertile: having few wants, and being ſatisfied with the ſpontaneous gifts of nature, they enjoy her bleſſings without much conſidering in what manner to improve them.

Before I take leave of the Vallais, I ſhall communicate to you the reſult of my inquiries concerning the cauſes, which contribute to render goitrous perſons and idiots ſo remarkably common in theſe parts: premiſing, at the ſame time, that I muſt ſtand greatly in need of your candour, when you peruſe the following conſiderations on a ſubject ſo extremely complicated; and on which ſo many different opinions have been advanced by naturaliſts and phyſicians.

Firſt, with reſpect to goiters. The notion that ſnow-water occaſions theſe excreſcences, is totally void of foundation. For on that ſuppoſition, why are they common in the midland and lower parts, and extremely unfrequent in the higher regions of Switzerland; and particularly what reaſon can be aſſigned, why the natives of thoſe places that lie moſt contiguous to the glaciers, and who drink no other water than what deſcends immediately from thoſe immenſe reſervoirs of ice and ſnow, are not ſubject to this malady? Why are the inhabitants of thoſe countries in which there is no ſnow, afflicted with it? For, theſe guttural tumours are to be found in the environs of Naples, in the iſland of Sumatra, and at Patna and Purnea, in the Eaſt Indies, where ſnow is unknown.

But as it would be needleſs to mention the various opinions on this ſubject, I ſhall at preſent confine myſelf to what, from repeated inquiries, from my own particular obſervations, and from poſitive facts, appears to be the *primary* cauſe of goiters.

The ſprings that ſupply drink to the natives are impregnated with a calcareous matter, called in Switzerland *tuf**, nearly ſimilar to the incruſtations of Matlock in Derbyſhire, ſo minutely diſſolved as not in the leaſt to affect the tranſparency of the water. Will it be deemed improbable, that the impalpable particles of this ſubſtance, thus diſſolved, ſhould introduce themſelves into the glands of the throat, and produce goiters? I ground this opinion on the following obſervations and facts.

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* The Porus of the older authors.

The Tophus glareoſo, argillaceus Polymorphus, of Linnæus, 186. 1.

The Tophus Polymorphus of Wallerius, Syſt. vol. ii. p. 394.

The Tophi of Kirwan, p. 25, called *Duckſtein* by the Germans.

To ſpeak in general: during my travels thro' Europe, I never failed to obſerve that *tuf*, or this calcareous depoſition, abounds in all thoſe diſtricts wherein goiters are common. I noticed goitrous perſons and much *tuf* in Derbyſhire, in various parts of the Vallais, in the Valteline, at Lucerne, Friburgh, and Berne, near Aigle and Bex, in ſeveral places of the Pays de Vaud, near Dreſden, in the vallies of Savoy and Piedmont, near Turin and Milan.

To deſcend to particular inſtances. The inhabitants of Friburgh, Berne, and Lucerne, are much ſubject to guttural excreſcences. With reſpect to Friburgh, I obſerved that one of the principal ſprings which ſupplies the town with water, iſſues from a neighbouring ſtone-quarry, and has formed large depoſitions of *tuf* on the rock from which it bubbles. The pipes, alſo, which convey water to the public fountains at Berne, are extremely charged with the ſame calcareous ſediment; and a gentleman, on whoſe veracity I can depend, aſſured me, that he is ſubject to a ſmall ſwelling in the throat, which uſually increaſes in winter, when he is chiefly reſident at Berne, and diminiſhes in ſummer, on his removal to other places, where the waters are not loaded with *tuf*.

I was, moreover, informed by General Pfiffer, that at Lucerne all the waters, excepting one ſpring, are impregnated with *tuf*, and that the natives, who dwell near that ſpring, are much leſs ſubject to goiters than the other inhabitants; that the ſame difference is obſerved among the members of the ſame family, between thoſe who drink no water but what is drawn from that ſpring, and the others who do not uſe that precaution. The General ſhewed me alſo the tin veſſel, in which water was every morning boiled for his uſe, and which was ſo ſpeedily and thickly incruſtated as to render it neceſſary to have it cleanſed twice a week. The water which yields this depoſition, is as tranſparent as chryſtal *.

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* Although it appears that wherever there are goiters there is tuf-ſtone; yet the reverſe is by no means true, that wherever the waters depoſit tuf, there are *always* goiters.

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I may add likewiſe, that I viſited many places which border upon thoſe diſtricts wherein goiters and *tuf* are frequent, and which have preciſely the ſame ſituation and climate, yet whoſe inhabitants were not goitrous, and where I did not obſerve any appearance of *tuf*.

But the ſtrongeſt proof, in favour of this opinion, is derived from the following facts. A ſurgeon, whom I met at the Baths of Leuk, informed me, that he had not unfrequently extracted concretions of *tuf-ſtone* from ſeveral goiters; and that from one in particular, which ſuppurated, he had taken ſeveral flat pieces, each about half an inch long. He added, that the ſame ſubſtance is found in the ſtomachs of cows, and in the goitrous tumours to which even the dogs of the country are ſubject. The ſame gentleman aſſured me, that in the courſe of his extenſive practice, he had diminiſhed and cured the goiters of many young perſons by emollient liquors and external applications; that his principal method, in order to prevent them in future, conſiſted in removing the patients from the

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For perhaps the natives do not drink of the ſprings which are loaded with *tuf*; or that ſubſtance is not ſufficiently diſſolved in the waters; abſolute ſolution being, perhaps, neceſſary to produce theſe ſwellings.

places where the ſprings are impregnated with *tuf*; and, if that could not be contrived, by forbidding the uſe of water which was not purified. He confirmed the report that infants are occaſionally born with guttural ſwellings; particularly thoſe whoſe parents are goitrous; and remarked, that one of his own children had at its birth a goiter as large as an egg, although neither he nor his wife, who were both foreigners *, were afflicted with that malady. He had diſſipated it by external remedies; and ſince that period, had invariably prohibited his family from taſting the ſpring waters, unleſs they were diſtilled, or mixed with wine or vinegar; by which means he was able to preſerve them from thoſe tumours in the throat, that were extremely common among the natives of the town which he inhabited.

Although it is by no means my intention to trouble you with the various opinions which have been advanced on this ſubject; yet it would be unjuſt to withhold from you that of M. de Sauſſure, whoſe accurate reſearches and profound inveſtigation on philoſophical ſubjects, deſerve to be weighed with the greateſt attention. That able naturaliſt, in a recent publication *, attributes the production of goiters not to the waters, but principally to the concentrated heat of the climate, and ſtagnation of the air. He informs us, that in all his travels through the Alpine countries, he never obſerved goiters in any places, which are elevated more than 500 or 600 toiſes † above the level of the ſea: he noticed them in thoſe vallies where the heat is concentrated, and the air ſtagnates; and that they uſually ceaſe wherever the valley terminates, and the country expands into a large plain. With great deference, however, to his opinion, may I be permitted to obſerve, that the concluſion does not abſolutely follow from theſe premiſes? For it may be remarked, that in places elevated more than 500 or 600 toiſes above the level of the ſea, the ſprings are too near their ſources, to have diſſolved a ſufficient quantity of calcareous matter, or ſo minutely as may be requiſite for the generation of goiters; and that when the valley expands into a plain, the waters may depoſit their ſediment by mixing with the rivers and

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* In the former inſtance, goiters may, though perhaps erroneouſly, be eſteemed hereditary; but in the latter, where the parents are both foreigners and not goitrous, can ſcarcely be derived from any other cauſe than the aliment of the mother.

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* See Voyages dans les Alpes, ch. 48. vol. ii. p. 480.

† 3200 and 3840 Engliſh feet.

lakes, or by filtrating through the earth and gravel. But although the two cauſes mentioned by M. de Sauſſure do not produce, they may *aſſiſt* in producing guttural excreſcences; by relaxing the fibres, and diſpoſing the glands of the throat to admit more eaſily the introduction of the impalpable parts which are diſſolved in the water. For it is obſervable, that women and children, whoſe frames are more relaxed than thoſe of men, are moſt liable to be afflicted with theſe ſwellings; and that the natives of thoſe diſtricts moſt remarkable for the ſize and number of goiters, are extremely wan and livid, much ſubject to intermitting fevers, and other diſorders which are judged to proceed from relaxation. In fine, although the concentrated heat, and ſtagnation of the air, may be allowed to affect the human body to a conſiderable degree; yet they do not of themſelves ſeem ſufficient for the effect in queſtion, without the intervention of ſome more powerful agent: and this agent *ſeems* to be the water; if the facts already ſtated, prove conſonant to truth and experience.

It may be neceſſary, however, to obviate an objection which maintains, that goiters muſt rather originate from climate and ſituation; becauſe foreigners, eſtabliſhed in the country, are *never* afflicted with thoſe tumours, while their children are no leſs ſubject to them than the natives. But is it an uncontrovertible fact, that *no* foreigner has ever been afflicted with this malady? The queſtion, I ſhould preſume, can ſcarcely be replied to in the affirmative. And all that can be eſtabliſhed, with any degree of certainty, is, that foreigners are *leſs* ſubject to theſe ſwellings than their children or the natives. In this reſpect the anſwer is evident. Perſons who uſually ſettle in foreign countries are adults; and adults are doubtleſs much leſs liable than children to an endemial malady, whoſe operation is gradual, and which requires much length of time, before its effects are in the leaſt viſible. And it is remarked, that, among the natives themſelves, thoſe perſons, who have eſcaped this diſorder during their infancy, are ſeldom attacked by it to any conſiderable degree at a more advanced age.

In reaſoning upon this, as well as on ſimilar ſubjects, where a cauſe is ſought for, capable of producing a certain effect; it is neceſſary to eſtabliſh a primary and general cauſe, which *always* and *neceſſarily* exiſts, wherever that effect is produced; and to exclude thoſe circumſtances, which do not *always* and *neceſſarily* exiſt, whereever that effect is produced. Thus, in the preſent inſtance: If ſnow-water occaſions goiters, wherever there are goiters, there *muſt* be ſnow-water; which is contrary to fact and experience. If the concentrated heat of the climate, and ſtagnation of the air, are *neceſſary* to the formation of goiters, thoſe excreſcences could never be formed where theſe cauſes are wanting; which is not confirmed by fact and experience. If waters, impregnated with *tuf*, or with certain calcareous ſubſtances, produce goiters; wherever there are goiters, the natives muſt drink waters ſo impregnated; and this *ſeems* agreeable to fact and experience.

The ſame cauſes, which generate goiters, *probably* operate in the caſe of idiots: for, whereever the former prevail to a conſiderable degree, the latter invariably abound. As ſuch is the nice and inexplicable connection between our bodies and our minds, that the one ever ſympathiſes with the other; it is by no means an ill-grounded conjecture, that the ſame cauſes which affect the body ſhould alſo affect the mind; or, in other words, that the ſame waters, which create obſtructions and goiters, ſhould alſo occaſion mental imbecillity and diſarrangement.

Although theſe idiots are frequently the children of goitrous parents, and have uſually thoſe ſwellings themſelves; yet they are ſometimes the offspring even of healthy parents, whoſe other children are properly organized, and are themſelves free from guttural excreſcences. I obſerved ſeveral children, ſcarcely ten years of age, who had very large goiters. Theſe tumours, when they increaſe to a conſiderable magnitude, check reſpiration, and render thoſe who are afflicted with them exceedingly indolent and languid. Some perſons have, in oppoſition to the opinion which I have ventured to advance, ſuppoſed, that the ſmall guttural ſwellings, which are common in many other parts, and the large excreſcences, which are more particularly obſerved in the Vallais, in the Valley of Aoſt and in ſome other places, do not proceed from the ſame cauſe, and are not the ſame diſorder. But ſufficient reaſons have not been aſſigned for this opinion. During my expedition through the Vallais and other parts of Switzerland, I noticed ſome of all proportions, from the ſize of a walnut to almoſt the bigneſs of a peck loaf. As the ſame gradation may be alſo obſerved in the ſpecies of idiots; by a ſimilar mode of argument, thoſe who poſſeſs ſome faint dawnings of reaſon might be diſcriminated from others, who are totally deaf and dumb, and give no proof of exiſtence but the mere animal ſenſations. Whereas it is probable, that in both inſtances, the greater or leſſer diſarrangement of the body or mind does not indicate a difference of complaint, but only greater or leſſer degrees of the ſame complaint.

It is to be preſumed, that a people accuſtomed to theſe excreſcences, will not be ſhocked at their deformity; but I do not find, as ſome writers aſſert, that they conſider them as beauties. To judge from the accounts of many travellers, it might be ſuppoſed, that the natives, without exception, were either idiots or goitrous: whereas, in fact, the Vallaiſans, in general, are a robuſt race; and all that with truth can be affirmed, is, that goitrous perſons, and idiots, are more abundant in ſome diſtricts of the Vallais; than perhaps in any other part of the globe.

It has been aſſerted alſo, that the people very much reſpect theſe idiots, and even conſider them *as bleſſings from Heaven*; which is ſtrongly contradicted by others. Upon my queſtioning ſome gentlemen of this country, at the baths of Leuk, they treated the notion as abſurd and falſe: but whether they delivered their real ſentiments, or were unwilling to confirm what might lower their countrymen in the opinion of a ſtranger, will admit perhaps of ſome doubt. For having, ſince that time, repeatedly inquired among the lower ranks, I am convinced, that the common people eſteem them as bleſſings. They call them "*Souls of God, without ſin:*" and many parents prefer theſe idiot-children to thoſe whoſe underſtandings are perfect; becauſe, as they are incapable of intentional criminality, they conſider them as certain of happineſs in a future ſtate. Nor is this opinion entirely without its good effect; as it diſpoſes the parents to pay greater attention to ſuch helpleſs beings. Theſe idiots are ſuffered to marry, as well among themſelves as with others.

I am, &c.

EXTRACT from SAXO GRAMMATICUS, referred to p. 278.

NEC ſilentio implicandum, quod ſequitur. Toko quidam aliquamdiu regis (i. e. Haraldi Blaatand) ſtipendia meritus officiis quibus commilitones ſuperabat complures virtutum ſuarum hoſtes effecerat. Hic forte ſermone inter convivas temulentius habito tam copioſo ſe ſagittandi uſu callere jactitabat, ut pomum quantumcunque exiguum baculo e diſtantiâ ſuperpoſitum, primâ ſpiculi directione feriret. Quæ vox primum obtrectantium auribus excepta regis etiam auditum attigit. Sed mox principis improbitas patris fiduciam ad filii periculum tranſtulit, dulciſſimum vitæ ejus pignus baculi loco ſtatui imperans. Cui niſi promiſſionis auctor primo ſagittæ conatu pomum impoſitum excuſſiſſet, proprio capite inanis jactantiæ pœnas lueret. Urgebat imperium regis militem majora promiſſis edere, alienæ obtrectationis inſidiis parum ſobriæ vocis jactum carpentibus, &c.——

Exhibitum Toko adoleſcentem attentius monuit, ut æquis auribus capiteque indeflexo quam patientiſſime ſtrepitum jaculi venientis exciperet, ne levi corporis motu efficaciſſimæ artis experientiam fruſtraretur. Præterea demendæ formidinis conſilium circumſpiciens, vultum ejus, ne viſo telo terretur, avertit. Tribus deinde ſagittis pharetrâ expoſitis prima quam nervo inſeruit propoſito obſtaculo incidit.——

Interrogatus autem a rege Toko cur plura pharetræ ſpicula detraxiſſet, cum fortunam arcus ſemel duntaxat experimento proſequi debuiſſet: "Ut in te," inquit, "primi errorem reliquorum acumine vindicarem, ne meæ "forte innocentia pœnam tui impunitatem experiretur "violentia. Quo tam libero dicto et ſibi fortitudinis titulum deberi docuit, et regis imperium pœna lignum oſtendit.

Lib. x. p. 286. edit. Leipſic. 1771.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

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